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SOCCER
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Razor Gang Moves In At Soccer Australia

By John Economos

THE 'Razor Gang' has moved in on Soccer Australia.

Since the new regime, (Board Of Commissioners), was electedinto power earlier this month at Soccer Australia, one of the very first and most essential actions taken, was to instigate an immediate independent audit of all financial records of the national body.

This was done under the instruction of new Chairman, Ian Knop.

Without any concrete evidence, it was always strongly suspected that Soccer Australia's Balance Sheet was in reality badly bruised and battered.

Now that this independent audit has swung into action over the past couple of weeks, already alarming sparks have surfaced.

More sparks are almost certainly promised to come.

About bloody time say us.

The audit already has unearthed undeniable and strong evidence that gross mismanagement has existed within this organisation for some time.

Now, long overdue, drastic and draconian measures have started to take place in a desperate effort to slash, and ultimately harness, the numerous and reckless overheads that have been allowed to fester and run rife over the past six, seven or eight years.

Economic sanity within the corridors at Soccer Australia had been completely, and most irresponsibly ignored.

Unaccountable and an irresponsible type of culture was allowed to manifest itself within Soccer Australia.

Sheer unaccountable extravagance, plus horrendous wastages in many areas, were left unharnessed to compound unchecked, that ultimately plunged Soccer Australia's debts to unbearable, (and certainly unsustainable), levels.

Ian Knop: Chairman.

For some members of the staff at Soccer Australia, the 'job' had really become a 'style of life' whilst employed under the banner of Soccer.

Now '*ABSW*' hears that most Mobile phones in the possession of most staff members, have now been rapidly called in as some users had been abusing the use of such potentially lethal costly instruments.

As well, all American Express cards held by staff members have also been handed in, as have all Cabcharge docket books.

The 'guillotine gang' has now cast a vigil eye across Soccer Australia's large payrolls. Two members of the staff have already been asked to 'resign'.

The latest 'casualty' being late last week whilst that person was still on an overseas trip.

The 'guillotine' is getting sharper by the day, threatening more heads that to roll.

Who actually was responsible for all this financial fiasco?

(For More, See Page 3 — Soccer Australia's Financial Turmoil)

Terry Venables: Australia's former National Coach.

Inter Milan's Mohammed Kallon right, challenges for the ball with Perugia's midfielder Giovanni Tedesco, left and Perugia's defender Marco Di Loreto, background, during their Italian soccer match on Sunday.

SOCCER AUSTRALIA 2001 HALL OF FAME

Hall of Champions: Inductees: Frank Farina (NSW) Alan Davidson (Vic).

Hall of Honour: John Constantine (NSW) Basil Scarsella (SA).

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Award of Distinction: Leo Baumgartner (NSW) Gary Byrne (NSW) Cec Drummond (NSW) Robbie Dunn (WA) Ken Murphy (Vic) Bill Vojtek (Vic).

Roll Of Honour (meritorious): Les Broadbent (Qld) Sid Grant (NNSW) Eric Heath (Vic) Rob McShane (WA) Arthur Roberts (NNSW) Bill Turner (NNSW).

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Joeys run riot in W-Cup tune-up

Australia's U/17 national side, the Joeys played its first match in the United States of America, beating a Florida-based U/18 College team 5-0, on Friday, last week.

The game was the first in a series of lead up games in preparation for the FIFA U17 World Championships, to be held in Trinidad & Tobago next month.

Played in very hot and humid conditions, the Joeys led 1-0 at the break against St Leo College before running riot in the second half.

Perth Glory midfielder Anthony Danze opened the scoring in the 24th minute, stabbing home at the second attempt after the goalkeeper was unable to hold his initial shot.

Fred Agius added a second goal five minutes after the break with a superbly taken free kick that he swerved around the wall and into the top right hand corner from 25 metres.

An own goal ten minutes later, followed by an Agius penalty and a goal to Michael Brown secured the satisfying win for the impressive-looking Joeys.

Joeys chief coach Ange Postecoglou reveled after the game that he was hoping to get another three to four practice games, including matches against the USA national U/17 side on September 6 and Argentina on September 8, before heading off to Trinidad & Tobago, for the competition proper.

The Joeys are aiming to go one step better than their showing in 1999, when they lost to Brazil in the final game. This time, expectations are high that the U/17 side will finally go for the jugular and win Australias first trophy in a FIFA-organised competition.

Fred Agius: U/17 midfielder, who scored in the friendly game, last week.

I wanted Latin Soccer at Cosmos, fired Alzamendi claims

By Graham Cooke

Antonio Alzamendi is doomed to be remembered as the only coach in National Soccer League history who was hired and fired without taking charge in a single match — but it is unlikely the former Uruguayan international will go quietly.

After spending a sleepless Sunday night, he phoned his wife at 5am to deliver the grim news, then spent the day huddling with his lawyer, Carlos Turini, and the man he wanted as his assistant coach, Gabriel Wilk.

Turini later confirmed that he was preparing a case for damages against the Cosmos and that the claim would be 'substantial".

He said it would include items which could be measured, such as the fact Alzamendi's family had spent money in the process of moving to Australia and that his wife had given up her job.

"But the damage to Mr Alzamendi's reputation, and the effect on his future career, is something which may have to be decided by a court."

He pointed out his client had 'impeccable' credentials, having coached at national level in Uruguay and for club teams in Peru and Spain. "His reputation will suffer damage because he has been dismissed by Canberra Cosmos before the season had even begun."

And he rejected suggestions that because a contract had not been signed, there was no legal obligation on the part of the Cosmos. "The club will have serious difficulties if they try to suggest that," he said. "As far as I am concerned they are liable for all the damages Mr Alzamendi has suffered."

Alzamendi said he felt sorry for players who had agreed to come to Canberra on the strength that he was going to be coach. "They have been let down through no fault of mine," he said.

"I wanted to introduce a South American style of soccer to Canberra, and there are players here who could have provided that, like Ivan Zelic, Geoff Howarth, Andy Rakic and Marcial Munoz — they have tremendous potential.

"But there were also players I was asked to look at who were not up to the task. Have I been penalised for making the kind of hard decisions every coach has to make?"

MENNILLO REUNITES WITH THEODORA'

By Emma Nwaneri

Itinerant Wollongong Wolves midfielder Dino Menillo is to reunite with ex-Wolves coach, Nick Theodorakopoulos after agreeing terms with Greek clubside Kallithea.

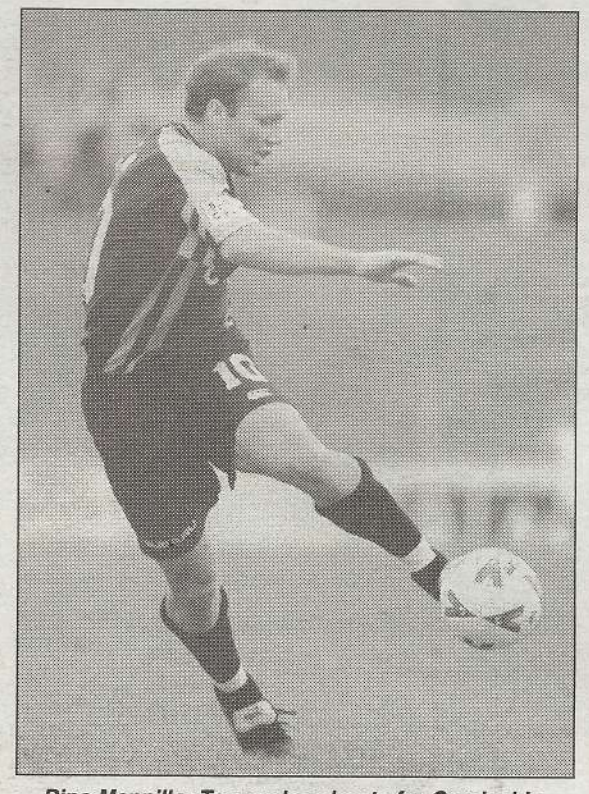
Mennillo's latest move comes at the end of a fruitless attempt to lace boots for English first division side, Watford, where he moved to from the Wolves in April.

Watford were however reported to have backed out of the deal after they failed to gain promotion to the lucrative premier league, forcing Mennillo to seek solace in another division side, Walsall.

The hard-fighting ex-Wolves midfielder however expressed his desire to play for a team with first division status, thus forcing him to approach Kallithea.

When contacted over the deal, Wolves' General Manager, Graeme Haney confirmed the movement. According to him, "He (Mennillo) was actually supposed to have left for overseas much more earlier, but we were surprised that things didn't exactly work out. He was not part of our plans for the new season, so it is quuite convenient that he is now going to Greece."

While insisting that financial details between Wollongong Wolves and Kallithea were yet to be sorted-out, Haney revealed that Mennillo was going on a permanent move and not on loan as is being widely-speculated. He further wished him luck.


Dino Mennillo: To now lace boots for Greek side, Kallithea.

Nick Theodorakopoulos

With the acquisition of Mennillo, Theodorakopoulos has succeedded in bolstering the growing contingent of Aussie players at the Athens-based clubside. Already, Kallithea has secured the services of other Aussie players Bill Damianos and ex-Adelaide City Force goalkeeper Kosta Salapasidis.

Meanwhile, Kallithea are also keen on adding Marconi Stallions striker, Angelo Costanzo to beef-up the team's attack. Already, the club have approached the Aussie international with an offer, which he is reportedly still considering.

Soccer Australia's Financial Turmoil

By John Economos

HOW on Earth did Soccer Australia ever allow its cash flows and Balance Sheet to plunge into an absolute financial turmoil?

Actually it's very easy to explain.

ABSW firmly believes that NOT one, but MANY people, (and high profile people at that), have all over the years, heavily contributed to Soccer Australia's financial wreckage.

Many have been grossly guilty of wild, unrestricted, and most of all, irresponsible spending of Soccer Australia's funds.

High profile people who over the years have sat on the Board at Soccer Australia possessing very little, or no basic business acumen at all.

Over the past almost ten years, staff levels at Soccer Australia had blown out.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars was being spent on ridiculous legal fees, consultancy fees etc.

Every month or so, one of our national squads, (and these days we do have four of them), were flying out on some overseas tour.

Many such tours were embarked upon to play meaningless matches.

The airlines were certainly very happy about that.

The National Soccer League recently has had to do without a major sponsor.

Since the major sponsorship of Ericssons dropped out, the League has failed to secure a replacement.

Most of this steadily growing financial fiasco, stemmed as far back as under the David Hill regime.

Financial discipline in basic, (but essential), cost controls, were flimsy or ignored.

New positions were created within the offices at Soccer Australia.

The high-spending spree that Soccer Australia embarked on to secure the coaching services of Terry Venables as national coach, plus members of his own personal staff, (engaged from England), were 'items' that Australian Soccer just flatly could ill afford.

Overheads just rocketted in a steep Northerly direction.

Even then, in England, some critics were questioning, 'how can Australia afford spending so high on its national coaching staff?'.

The national body was being run as if the administration had endless funds, with financial realities instantly flying out the window.

The 'gravy train' had started to steam up.

That train began to roll down the tracks of financial ruin, and on its way took on board many 'passengers' without question.

The 'passengers' involved were certainly not to blame.

A free ride is a free ride.

Soccer Australia in fact was being 'taken for a ride'.

But the 'Station Masters', (then, and since then-Commissioners- that is), have unquestionably, and without exception, been guilty of such mismanagement .

Mismanagement with no safety 'Stop Signals' in sight, along the way.

Unrealistic and unreasonable contracts of employment had, and were dished out, left and right to many people at Soccer Australia.

And let's not leave out the area of travelling costs.

Travel costs were run up willy nilly, including numerous First Class air-travel for individuals as if they were high-powered Executives employed by BHP, not Soccer Australia.

"Just knock it up on the slate and let the next guys coming in to power to worry about," seemed to be the general attitude adopted.

Stop Signals.

Now, all of a sudden, drastic measures have been mobilised.

Almost all Credit cards, Cabcharges, Mobile phones have now been confiscated at Soccer Australia..

But why now?

Whilst we're on this cost-cutting crusade report, what about the numerous, expensive overseas trips made by some of our national teams in the past, and are still continuing today?

For example, the current training camp for Australia's Under 17s squad, right now is in Miami?

Sure the Under 17s are preparing for the World Championships soon.

But why on Earth prepare in Miami?

Climatic conditions?

If the Miami expedition was for the purpose of acclimatisation, why not base the camp in Darwin?

At least accommodation, food, beverage and travel expenses would all be charged in Australian dollars, not in the 'Two-For-One" US bucks.

It took media reports late last week which leaked out that some $1.2 million was still owing to our international players from as far back as two years ago, to let one know that the 'house was on fire'.

And has been for some time.

All these catastrophic cash-burning situations are now slowly but surely surfacing.

It appears that the current Board Of Commissioners is getting serious, (or have been forced), to work hard towards the long term picture in repairing Soccer Australia's badly bruised and battered Balance Sheet.

There's an old saying that's been banded around about our sport for years:

"Ah yes Soccer. That great sport in Australia that has no management."

Well the 'Razor Gang' has now moved in.

Within a few more weeks a detailed report will be tabled.

KNIGHTS SWITCH TO SATURDAYS

Andrew Marth: Melbourne Knights' player/coach.

By Bert van Bedaf

THE Melbourne Knights want to stage home games on Saturday nights with a 7.30pm kick-off. Club directors have given the move "in-principle support", but the idea also has been put to the members to gauge their support.

The Knights open their national league season away to Newcastle on October 4 and will play their first home game the following week on Saturday, October 12, against Adelaide City Force.

They played on late Sunday afternoons in the past and although crowds have been reasonable, that is expected to improve with a new kick-off time. The new time is chosen to entice people to come to home games earlier and stay longer afterwards with a variety of entertainment and hospitality.

"Changing the Sunday 6pm kick-off time is part of the club`s plans to turn home matches into a full night of entertainment at Knights Stadium," club general manager Robert Hrzic said.

"Fans will also be urged to stay back in the Batcave bar (underneath the Viduka grandstand) after the game. The stadium will be promoted as an entertainment complex.

"It will also increase our chances for live TV coverage and have footage shown on Channel Seven`s proposed soccer show on Sunday mornings.

"We believe the switch will be a winner and attract more fans. There will be an extra dimension to games under lights by allowing night entertainment such as half-time fireworks displays, sound and light shows and other drawcards," he said.

Among the "drawcards" to be considered is Croatian tennis star Goran Ivanisevic. The Wimbledon champion could be playing for the Knights in preparation for a charge at the Australian Tennis Open.

Knights team manager John Sigur confirmed an approach had been made to include the 29-year-old tennis ace in the team. "If everything goes to plan, the club would be registering him with Soccer Australia as a visa or guest players," Sigur said.

Ivanisevic is a devoted soccer fan and once declined an invitation to play for Croatian giant Hajduk Split a few years ago.

The Knights scored headlines and drew record crowds when they signed former England international Peter Beardsley for two guest matches in March last year.

The Knights have just returned from a pre-season tour in Vietnam, where games were broadcast live throughout South East Asia.

"They received saturation media coverage in a part of the world that is fanatical about soccer," Hrzic said.

The Knights were knocked out of the six-team tournament in the semi-final when they lost 5-4 on penalties to home favorites Ho Chi Minh City Select.

One of the lucky travellers to Vietnam was Daniel Rocco, who is making a rapid rise to Knights senior ranks.

The young central defender played with Victorian Premier League club Fawkner as a junior before earning a scholarship with the Victorian Institute of Sport.

He joined the Knights last season and was part of the team that won the NSL youth grand final.

The Knights and player-coach Andrew Marth will need to do some smart recruiting after having lost midfielder Lubo Lapsansky to Parramatta Power and striker Adrian Cervinski to Northern Spirit.

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THURSDAYS	18th, 25th OCTOBER & 1st NOVEMBER	UNDER 14's	6.00PM TO 7.30PM
THURSDAYS	18th, 25th OCTOBER & 1st NOVEMBER	UNDER 15's	7.30PM TO 9.00PM
SUNDAYS	14th, 21st & 28th OCTOBER	UNDER 11's & 12's	9.00AM TO 10.30AM
SUNDAYS	14th, 21st & 28th OCTOBER	LADIES 14's & 16's	10.30AM TO 12NOON
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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

LIVERPOOL did it yet again over the week-end, taking out the Super Cup when they defeated German giants Bayern Munich 3-2 in Monaco.

Liverpool has now made it 'Four out of Four' consecutive trophies that Gerrad Houllier's lads have collected to date this year.

Having already snared the League Cup Final, F.A. Cup Final plus the UEFA Cup, Liverpool last Saturday morning, 'bombed' the Germans in a sustained first half attacking siege with the mighty Reds steaming to a 3-0 lead at the break.

Norwegian left defender, John Riise, 'opened the innings' for Liverpool with the powerfully-built marksman Emile Heskey and elegant striker Michael Owen stacking on the second and third.

JOHN RIISE: Liverpool defender opened the scoring.

❑❑❑❑

JULIE MURRAY, the Australian captain, scored the winning goal in the USA's first Women's Professional League Cup Final over the week-end.

Played in Boston, The Bay Area CyberRays, (Murray's team), shocked Final favourites Atlanta Beat who went down 4-2 as the Cup was settled by that dreaded penalty shoot-out.

After extra time the teams were locked in at 3-3.

Despite Atlanta's goalkeeper diving correctly to her left, Murray's blast, (the fourth and deciding penalty), from the spot was far too strong as it crashed high inside the right upright to give her side the historic first Womens USA Championship Cup Final.

This was the 31 year old Murray's second goal of the match having scored her first two minutes from halftime.

JULIE MURRAY: Australia's captain scored the winner in the Cup Final in the USA.

❑❑❑❑

JAMES ('Gentleman Jim') OSBORNE, aged 93, today holds the honour as being the oldest living former Australian Soccer International.

Touring English captain, Bernard Joy, once rated James Osborne amongst the best players he had seen whilst touring Australia back in 1937.

JOHNNY WATKISS: One former Australian great meets another.

By John Economos

A far more recent former Australian International, Johnny Watkiss, paid a visit to Jimmy Osborne last July when the elderly Soccer warrior was briefly admitted into Canterbury Hospital in Sydney.

Osborne had been admitted to have some tests done on his heart as well as to check out his blood pressure.

❑❑❑❑

WATKISS, after visiting Jimmy, told 'Good Oil': "For a man that is 93, he certainly looks terrific. In fact Jim looked sprightly indeed."

Jimmy Osborne's son, Barry, as a teenager in 1958, played for Canterbury's 3rd Grade with another former International great, Australian captain, John Warren.

Osborne senior was born and raised in Wallsend in Northern NSW in May 1908.

Osborne's daughter, Ms Kay Brown, when contacted by 'Good Oil' yesterday, (Monday), she proudly stated: "Dad was born the same year as the great Don Bradman, in fact just a matter of weeks earlier than Sir Donald.

"Dad still lives at home with Mum, (Edna), but he does receive daily attention from the Care Centre."

Ms Brown went on to add: "These days Dad spends some time in his large back yard walking his dog, 'Missie' and just potters around.

"He still loves Soccer very much and always wants to watch any games that are on the television," ended Ms Brown about her famous Father.

James Osborne completed a most successful career, mostly as a half back, (attacking midfielder), which included having scored incredibly more than 400 goals whilst making more than 450 first class appearances.

Osborne represented Australia against New Zealand (1936), India (1938), Palestine (1939), China (1941) and even captained the NSW side that played against the English Amateurs in 1937.

As well, Osborne toured with the Australian side to New Caledonia (1933) and New Zealand (1936).

He began his career at 18 with Wallsend then moved to Weston and in seeking employment, switched to Sydney for two seasons, to play with Granville before signing with Metters from 1936 until he retired at the age of 37 in 1945.

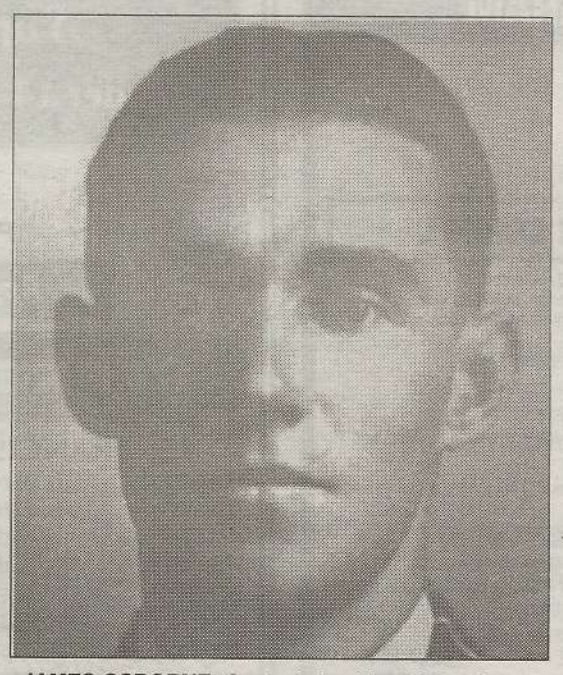
Highly skilled, Osborne played in an era that boasted Soccer giants such as Jim McNabb, Digger Evans, George Smith as well as Joe Marston, Reg Date and Alf Quill in his later years.

Osborne's talent attracted an offer from English club Newcastle United, but the durable Australian international declined.

Osborne, was inducted into the 'Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame' in 1998, kicked off his Soccer playing career as a striker whilst still at school and in Grade until one of his teammates, (a left midfielder), became ill. Osborne was chosen to fill that position which he held till he retired.

Known as 'Gentleman Jim' by all players and his friends, Jimmy Osborne was fortunate enough to enjoy an almost injury-free career. A lacerated eye that required just two stitches, was the only injury Osborne sustained in his 450 games.

On Sunday February 28th, 1999, one James Osborne, former Australian International, was inducted into the Inaugural Australian Soccer Hall Of Fame.



JAMES OSBORNE: Australia's oldest living former Soccer International.

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SBS-TV this Sunday morning will screen the Serie A match replay of Verona vs AS Roma at 10.30am.

On Saturday week, (September 8th) at 5.00pm, SBS will screen on its World Soccer programme, the World Cup qualifier between Germany and England, direct from Munich.

This match may prove to be World War 111.

Ian Knop: Chairman left to clean up the mess.

DAVID BECKHAM: England's World Cup captain and playmaker.

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THE $1.2 million cash fiasco that surfaced late last week of monies still owing to our international players from as far back as three years, proved once again to be a huge embarrassment in the eye of the general Australian Sporting Public.

Why on Earth does Soccer Australia make deals with our international players, (via the Players' Union), that it ultimately can't afford to honour?

Or was it a case of monies coming in from overseas international fixtures that Soccer Australia diverted towards its other debts owed?

Or have our little precious international players become so money-grabbing that it has been crippling the coffers at Soccer Australia?

Or is it really a case of all of the above three, combined?

New Chairman of Soccer Australia, Ian Knop, inherited this massive arrears in Players' payments.

Now he's been left stranded to clean up the mess.

'Good Oil' firmly believes that this latest lesson in Australian Soccer finances, for Knop, will be his greatest to date, and will be an indelible one for him,-to say the least.

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MARCONI last week embarked on a pre-season tour of the Riverina region, (Southern NSW), that embraced two games against Wagga and Griffiths.

The Wagga Select match saw the Sydney side run out 0-9 winners with attacking midfielder John Maisano rattling in a first half hat-trick.

Marconi's NSL squad put on some Soccer clinics for the local schools and paid some visits to other schools.

Fergurson forced me out – Stam

Lazio have signed Manchester United's Dutch defender Jaap Stam in a shock move at a time when the Red Devils defence looks frail.

The deal is reported to be worth $23.6 million and according to Lazio's director general Massimo Cragnotti, will fill the "defensive gap" in his team.

Manchester United's Dutch international defender Jaap Stam has completed a four-year transfer to Lazio, the Italian club's director general Massimo Cragnotti said on Sunday.

"Now I hope we have filled the defensive gap in our team," said Cragnotti, son of the club president Sergio.

The deal is reported to be worth 23.6 million dollars to the English Premiership champions who signed the Holland international from PS Eindhoven for a then world record fee for a defender in 1998.

Stam, who will be presented to the press at the Formello training base on Monday, was shown the door at Old Trafford after making controversial comments about boss Sir Alex Ferguson and other United staff in his new autobiography.

Sir Alex had earlier confirmed that he had accepted the Lazio offer revealed by Stam in Sunday's edition of the News of the World.

"This has come out of the blue, but it's true," said Stam. "United have accepted an offer from the Italian club this weekend."

Jaap Stam

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

Coach Lee Sterrey stated to 'Good Oil' last night:" The country kids loved it. But so did all my players.

"I've been down there, (Riverina), before and know just how hungry country towns are for top class Soccer.

"Sure it's a form of Public Relations exercise by Marconi, but I also believe that the country centres get a lot out of it as well.

LEE STERREY: Marconi's coach in the Riverina of NSW.

"Last Sunday, in our second game, we played Hanwood and won 9-1.

"John Maisano knocked in another hat-trick. This was his second on this tour," ended Sterrey.

The Marconi squad arrived back in Sydney yesterday afternoon..

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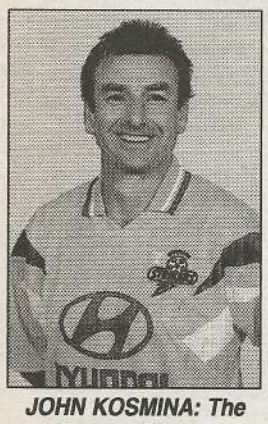
JOHN KOSMINA, the Brisbane Strikers' coach, will this morning, (Tuesday), announce his latest star signing for the coming NSL season.



JOHN KOSMINA: The Brisbane Strikers' coach.

A Press Conference scheduled for 11.30 am at Spencer Park Soccer Ground in the Brisbane suburb of Newmarket, the Strikers' officials will officially unveil their latest mystery recruit.

JASON KEARTON: Expected to be signed by the Strikers today.

It's rumoured that the new signing will be none other than 32 year old experienced goalkeeper, Jason Kearton.

The strapping Queenslander had left Australia seeking fame and fortune in England back in 1988.

Kearton did manage to secure a professional contract and became Everton's No 2 custodian for almost nine years.

After leaving Everton, Kearton spent a couple of seasons with Blackburn Rovers and Crewe Alexandria.

Now returned to Australia, Kearton is strongly expected to be named today as the Strikers' latest signing.

Meanwhile Kosmina who has started pre-season training, is elated with his new signing, striker Kris Trajanovski.

" 'Traja', besides being a good bloke, is a great player.

"I've known this and liked him for years.

"His attitude and work-rate at our training sessions have been absolutely great," ended the Queenslanders' coach and former Australian World Cup captain.

❑❑❑❑

SYDNEY OLYMPIC has done it again.

And it's now official.

A name change that is.

Last Sunday at a General Meeting, the Club's members voted to the proposal put up by the Four 'White Knights' that own the majority of Sydney Olympic.

The team as from this season will be known as the 'Olympic Sharks'.

The change of name was instigated to make the team more synonymous with its new homeground, Sharks Park at Cronulla.

Olympic officials today or tomorrow are expected

TOMMY PONDELJAK: Wanted by Olympic.

to sign a 3 Plus 3 year lease over Shark Park.

Formed in 1976 and entered in the NSL in 1977, the Club was registered as 'Sydney Olympic'.

Four years ago a name change to 'UTS Olympic' was rushed through by just two of the Club's Directors at the time, before anyone knew about it.

That same year, 'UTS' became Olympic's new major sponsor for the next two years, and that name was 'blended in' to the team's name.

However the fans continued to refer to their team as 'Sydney Olympic'.

In other news concerning Olympic, the Club has still been talking to Sydney United's flank-speedster, Tommy Pondeljak.

Pondeljak is understood to be out of contract and Olympic seem very keen to sign him.

❑❑❑❑

CHRISTIAN VIERI, the former Marconi junior, has been recalled into the Italian national team for

CHRISTIAN VIERI: Cracks in a double and climbs back into the Italian World Cup squad.

Saturday's Group 8 World Cup qualifier against Lithuania.

Vieri last Sunday rattled in the two very late goals in Inter Milan's 4-1 thrashing of Perugia in Milan.

The gangling World Cup marksman has not played for Italy since February 28th against Argentina following a long lay-off with injury.

Italy's national manager, Giovanni Trapattoni, didn't hesitate to recall the revitalised Vieri back into the Azzuri squad.

❑❑❑❑

NEWCASTLE UNITED, following meetings with Soccer Australia as well as the Seven Network, is pleased to announce that the Opening game of Season 2001-02 in the NSL will be played at the Marathon Stadium.

Newcastle will face the

Newcastle United

Melbourne Knights on Friday October 5th at 7.30pm as the League's curtain-raiser to the new Season.

A large crowd is expected, in fact in excess of 10,000.

The Seven Network proposes to conduct double-headers at the Colonial Stadium in Melbourne.

❑❑❑❑

By John Economos

THE SEVEN NETWORK's Executive, Mr Shane Wood, was appointed last week to the Board Of Commissioners of Soccer Australia.

7sport

Soccer Australia stated that it was vital that their television partner is given the opportunity to assist the Board in the area of television and broadcast media.

Mr Wood is a senior executive with the Network and possesses a strong background in sports broadcasting.

Soccer Australia's Chairman, Ian Knop stated: "Establishing a direct dialogue with Soccer Australia at board level will allow the Seven Network to table issues of broadcast significance, and should strengthen the partnership, (Soccer Australia and Seven)."

Seven Network's status on the Board will be that of an 'observer'.

❑❑❑❑

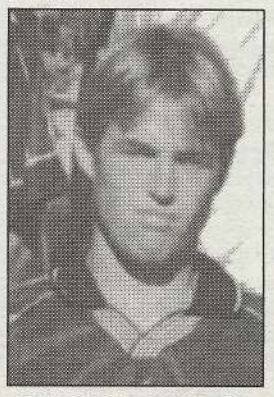
INDIVIDUAL PLAYER SPONSORSHIPS have lately become fashionable amongst some of our clubs.

Last week Sydney Olympic's strapping striker, Dylan MacAllister, gained a major individual sponsor.

Ganella Pty Ltd, sponsors of Olympic for some years, have agreed to sponsor MacAllister.

Olympic for the coming season have introduced and made available, new Individual Player Sponsorship packages, with MacAllister now opening the 'innings' in this new field.

In other news concerning Olympic, the team will play a number of pre-season matches in preparation for the coming new NSL season.



DYLAN MacALLISTER: Olympic's strapping striker with new sponsor.

Confirmed games to date are:

Sunday September 2nd, Olympic vs Sutherland Sharks from the NSW Premier League.

This match has been set down for 3pm at Wentworth Park.

The following week, Sunday September 9th, Olympic will challenge Canterbury Marrickville, (NSW Premier League), also at Wentworth Park, also set down for 3pm.

❑❑❑❑

IT was a very sad day last Wednesday in England when the news broke out that goalkeeper **LES SEALEY,** had died in London at the age of only 43.

The former Manchester United goalkeeper had suffered a heart attack.

Sealey had also played for Coventry, Luton Town as well as West Ham.

A great style of lad, Sealey was in goals for Manchester United when the mighty England giants won the European Cup Winners' Cup Final, beating Spanish giants Barcelona in the Final in1991.

❑❑❑❑

The Bill Turner Cup Quarter Finals results from last week-end were as follows:

Palm Beach-Currumbin 2-Kirwan 1.

Hunter Sports 1-(4) - Lambton 1-(3).

Concord 3 -McCarthy Catholic 0.

Holy Spirit Bellambi 1-St Francis Xavier 0.

The Bill Turner Trophy (Girls Under 15s).Quarter Finals were as follows:

South Grafton 1 duval 0.

Cessnock 1-(5) Davidson 1-(4).

Westfields Sports -3 Port Hacking 2.

Crookwell 2-Mudgee 1.

NORTHERN N.S.W SOCCER FEDERATION

LES SEALEY: Passed away last week aged 43, lifting the European Cup Winners Cup trophy won by Manchester Utd in 1991 after beating Barcelona in the final.

CYC STANMORE SC HAWKS

STANMORE HAWKS
SOCCER CLUB

Applications are now invited for the following positions in the respective competitions:

NSW Super League

First Grade,
Under 21s and Under 18s

Youth League

Youth Development and Head Coach
Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16
All Applicants must be experienced and accredited with
The NSW Soccer Federation.
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 4 SEPTEMBER 2001.

Applications in writing to the Secretary.
Stanmore Hawks Soccer Club
56-58 Stanmore Road, Stanmore 2048.
Enquiries S. Economides 9642-1781, 0419 686 569
Fax: 9516-1679

Horsley ready to rock at Glory

By Richard Kreider

Former Wollongong Wolves skipper Matt Horsley is counting off the days as his debut in a Perth Glory shirt approaches.

His first encounter will be against local State League side Swan IC at the Swan Italian Club next Saturday and says he is ready for action after the first stage of full-time pre-season training was completed.

"It has been hard work, but the results are showing and we are all keen to get into the action," said Horsley.

"Any player would probably say pre-season training is a necessary evil but while the sessions have been hard there has been plenty of variety.

We will all be putting in that little bit extra for the week leading up to the first scratch match and there is plenty to fight for.

"The intensity at training has been good to see," he said. "There is real competition for places and everyone has to perform at their best."

The two times NSL championship winner, the first being the come-from-behind victory at Subicao Oval against Perth Glory, will now experience having the incredible Glory support behind him.

"I am told we get good crowds even for pre-season matches so I am very much looking forward to it," he said.

Coach Mich díAvray will however, go into the game with some limitations. Craig Deans, Jamie Harnwell, Gareth Naven, Gary Faria and Lubo Milicevic will be missing through injury.

However, d'Avray says the game is still an important one. "It will be great to give the players a match. They have been working hard in training but players love to play and they will be raring to go."

Horsley is the only signing the club has made since the end of last season, although Glory has seen five players depart.

Perth is however, reported to be adding to its overseas visa signings with a Brazilian sweeper and a Jamaican midfielder poised to participate in trials. They are expected to jet into Perth from Europe within the next fortnight.

Currently, the Perth club has just the one visa signing on its books, Brazilian midfielder Edgar. NSL clubs are permitted to have four overseas players.

On September 7 and 8, the Perth club will make a return pre-season trek to Adelaide for hit-outs with the Adelaide Blue Eagles and Parramatta Power in a mini tournament.

The following weekend, Glory take on State League side Inglewood United before a three-game series against Northern Spirit; starting under lights at Coker Park on September 19.

They then play the second friendly in Kalgoorlie three days later to honour the State Government's Country Sport Enrichment Scheme, where they will also participate in coaching clinics for players, coaches and referees.

The third match is scheduled for September 25 at Leederville Oval before a final pre-season hit-out against newly-crowned State League champion Sorrento at Percy Doyle Reserve on September 30, for the Asthma Research Foundation.

Matt Horsley: Eager to fileout in a Perth Glory shirt.

Bay Area CyberRays' and Aussie international, Julie Murray dribbles past Atlanta Beat's goalkeeper Briana Scurry (1) to score during the final of inaugural USA Womens Championship at Foxboro Stadium last Saturday.

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

MURRAY ON TARGET AS CYBERRAYS LIFT US TITLE

Matildas striker and Olympian Julie Murray was instrumental in the Bay Area CyberRays' penalty shootout victory over Atlanta Beat in Sunday morning's (AEST) inaugural WUSA professional league final in Boston.

Murray scored the Championship-clinching penalty as well as an equalising goal late in the first half, on her way to being named match MVP.

The San-Jose-based CyberRays celebrated the title after a 4-2 penalty shootout win, following a 3-3 scoreline at the end of regulation and extra-time.

The CyberRays had never beaten Atlanta in their three previous clashes, but significantly, Murray had played only a total of twenty-four minutes of those games. Sunday, the 31-year-old Australian proved the trump card, leading the CyberRays attack in the see-sawing thriller before a 21,078 crowd at Foxboro Stadium.

The 'Rays took the lead after just six minutes, a Sissi freekick touched-on to find Kelly Lindsey ghosting in at the far post. Her volley, was deflected off the head of teammate Brandi Chastain and into goal.

But the celebrations were cut short soon after, Atlanta immediately responding with a quick-fire double to claim the 2-1 lead within the next eight minutes. Kylie Bivens drove home unmarked from inside the penalty area. Then a long clearance from the keeper, headed on by Cindy Parlow enabled Charmaine Hooper in behind a flat defence to chip the outcoming goalie.

Atlanta goalkeeper, US star Briana Scurry made a courageous save at the feet of Murray and then stopped Katia's attempt off the rebound. Bay Area were finally rewarded when Murray pulled the scores back level with a confidence-boosting goal two minutes before half-time. Put through for a one-on-one with the keeper by Christina Bell, Murray sold the dummy before dribbling around Scurry and placing her shot into the empty net.

A tight second half saw Murray with the best chances on goal, but denied by Scurry in the 58th and 68th minutes. The tension would only rise as the clock ticked down towards the ninety minute mark. Murray sent a golden chance sailing over the crossbar with ten minutes remaining, before Atlanta substitute Sun Wen snatched the lead at 3-2 in the 83rd minute. A Nikki Serlenga freekick glanced on by Parlow found Sun Wen at the far post, who nutmegged her opponent before scoring.

The CyberRays however weren't about to surrender and equalised three minutes later with a Tisha Venturini lifeline goal to tie up proceedings once more.

The best opportunity of a quiet, scoreless extra-time fell to CyberRays sub Ann Cook who skied her shot in a one-on-one with Scurry. The Championship thus went into penalty kicks.

CyberRays keeper Lakeysia Beene saved the opening attempt from Chinese star Sun Wen, and in the third take, her Canadian teammate Hooper sent her strike wide. The 'Rays suffered no such nerves in the pressure-cooker atmosphere, Venturini, Carey Dorn, and Katia each converting, leaving Murray to send the CyberRays fans into raptures with the fourth spot kick. Ironically, it meant fifth-penalty taker Chastain, US penalty-winning hero in the final of the 1999 World Cup, was not needed to repeat the feat on this occasion.

Murray's goalscoring feats have not only helped claim the world's richest and most successful women's league crown, but also played a significant role in lifting the CyberRays from equal last position after six games. The team's transformation included an incredible ten-match unbeaten streak to lift the CyberRays to the top of the ladder.

After just one goal in the first eight games, Murray has since scored eleven in the last fifteen matches, including a pair of headers (one of which was the winning goal) in last week's semifinal, and was the club's leading scorer. Alagich, signed mid-season to shore up the defence, played six full games during that unbeaten stretch, which then came to an end in her first game on the sidelines.

The win is great news not only for the CyberRays and the three Aussies, but also for Australian women's soccer. Hopefully the flow-on benefits will include more coveted international spots for members of the Matildas come next WUSA season.

AUSSIE CYBERRAYS ON SBS

SBS-TV made a detour to the Bay Area CyberRays as part of their recent World Athletics Championship trip, and conducted interviews with Julie Murray, Dianne Alagich, and Tom Sermanni. They also had a camera at the match against Washington where a crowd of 16,000 watched Julie score the only goal.

You can see the feature on Julie and Di tomorrow (Wed) on Toyota World Sports (7pm). Tom Sermanni's interview was aired last Thursday on Toyota World Sports.

MATILDAS NAMED IN US LEAGUE ALL-STARS

Both Kelly Golebiowski and Amy Taylor have been named in the W-1 Championship All-Tournament Team.

The all-star selection is made in recognition of performances during the four-team, two day W-1 National Championship, and the two Australians were named despite the fact the Hampton Roads Piranhas played only the one match after their third-place playoff was abandoned due to a severe storm.

The selection caps a great season for the pair, both in their first stint overseas. As reported last week, Golebiowski also won the W-1 Rookie of the Year award.

SOUTHS PREPARE FOR NEW SEASON

By Bert van Bedaf

THE return of South Melbourne vice-captain Fausto De Amicis has intensified the club's focus on the coming National Soccer League season.

Having finished as minor premier, yet losing the grand final to Wollongong last season has increased the appetite of the experienced defender, who has won two national titles with the Melbourne Knights before winning another two championships with the Lakesiders.

Also a Socceroo defender, De Amicis returned to Melbourne following Australia's recent 3-0 loss to Japan at the AFC/OFC Challenge Cup. He started training with the South squad last week.

Before joining the Socceroos in Japan, he completed an extended trial at English second division Club, Huddersfield Town.

"Playing overseas is something I've always wanted to do. It is very competitive among local talent as well as so many foreign players trialling," De Amicis said.

"I know I performed well and made a good impression, so I guess we'll just have to wait and see what happens. A change is always good, but I've also enjoyed my time at South Melbourne, so either way I think I'll still be satisfied," De Amicis said.

Meanwhile, new coach Eddie Krncevic and assistant Jeff Oliver have been casting an eye over possible transfers at the first intra-club match.

Trialling players included former Young Socceroos captain Clayton Bell, ex-Perth and Knights defender Vinko Buljebasic, and Joe Bacak who has returned from Holland.

Olver said he has been happy with proceedings so far.

"It's only our first training match, but the tempo was good, the enthusiasm was good, and the work rate was excellent," he said. "It looks like a good base to build on for the rest of the season".

More good news filtered from the South Melbourne camp during the week, when midfielder David Clarkson announced he'd signed for two more years with the former national Soccer league champion.

Clarkson had been unsettled at Bob Jane Stadium in the latter stages of last season. He did not feature in the finals campaign and was missing from the losing grand final line-up against Wollongong.

At 33, the dual champion with the Lakesiders is "thrilled" to be part of two more campaigns before hanging up his boots.

"I'm very happy knowing I will finish my career at South Melbourne," he said after signing on the dotted line last Thursday.

"I've been at South for five years and have experienced enormous success here. So, I'm delighted I've signed for the club for another two years," he said.

Clarkson joined in 1996 and played in four finals series, competed in three grand finals and won back-to-back titles in 1998 and 1999.

Clarkson, together with captain Paul Trimboli, will be groomed to take on coaching roles at the club, as it is embarking on a major youth development program.

The good word is also expected to come from veteran defender Mehmet Durakovic, who had received an offer to join former coach Mike Petersen at the Football Kingz in New Zealand.

One of the club`s most favorite sons, Durakovic is expected to stick with South and contribute to the coaching staff in the future.

South is also expected to make at least four or five additions to its squad under Krncevic. Former Eastern Pride goal keeper Eugene Galekovic already has arrived as back-up to Chris Jones, who will be South`s No.1 'keeper now that Michael Petkovic has gone to Norwegian club Lillestrom.

South will travel to China for a pre-season tournament next month.

David Clarkson (right): Souths' midfielder, who has agreed a new two-year deal with the club.

Eddie Krncevic: New coach, new challenges.

FAN keeps watch over SA, Knop

By Bert van Bedaf

SEVEN Network, the villainous channel that took Soccer broadcasting to a new low after having having secured the rights for ten years for a bargain $25 million, is rapidly becoming Soccer Australia's best friend. .

Changes at the national body have come in quick succession, following the elevation of Ian Knop as chairman after the demise of Tony Labbozzetta early August.

SA chief executive David Woolley announced his resignation. General manager Ian Holmes is caretaker, while a consulting firm is searching for a new chief head. Former Northern Spirit chairman Remo Nogarotto has been mentioned as a candidate.

Neville Wran retired from his position of SA president. Former NSW Liberal premier Nick Greiner succeeded his former Labor counterpart. Knop also took the brave decision to hire financial services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct a thorough audit of SA's financial affairs. What will it be like, watching the skeletons falling out of the cupboard? The most recent "scandal", a threatened Socceroos strike over outstanding payment, is only the latest in a long series of serious SA bungles going back many years.

Then there's the appointment of Seven executive Shane Wood as an "observer" on the SA board. Wood is a Sydneysider who was was in charge of Seven's Olympic Games coverage. He plays amateur Soccer, so he'll have affinity with the sport. He won't have voting rights, but he represents Soccer's best hope of improved coverage on free-to-air television.

In its fourth year of its ten-year contract, Seven has shown little more than a midnight highlights package of the national league in the past. A Sunday show has recently been suggested.

The NSL is Soccer's bread-and-butter showcase. Despite the fact that all money and effort is banked on the Socceroos and their passage to the World Cup, without doubt the main event to attract regular followers, crowds and major sponsorship for clubs and the league (still without a naming rights sponsor) is the national competition. But sponsors want television coverage and Seven is the channel with the power to deliver that exposure.

Do not, however, hold your breath for wall-to-wall coverage when the AFL moves to Channel Nine after this season's grand final in September.

Seven will seek nourishment in rugby as well as Soccer but not on the grand scale with which it has lavished Rules Football on the viewers for decades.

"An effective working relationship between Soccer Australia and Channel Seven is important to the success and growth of the sport. There will be improved coverage, but that doesn't mean there will be live matches other than the finals (on free-to-air)," Wood said. Seven will continue to screen matches on its C7 pay-tv channel.

The changes that have been wrought recently may in part be attributed to Melbourne crusader Con Monteleone, who for month has been declaring war on Seven and Soccer Australia over the poor state of televised coverage and SA's various ineptitudes.

Monteleone went so far as to present the case to FIFA several months ago and has been a thorn in the side of the two organisations with his persistent agitation as spokesperson of STAND (Seven Talks and Never Delivers).

Ian Knop: SA Chairman.

Now, the Donnybrook dairy farmer, who is also connected with Victorian first division club Thomastown, has established FAN (Football Advocates Network), which is an embrella organisation of various Soccer fan clubs. Monteleone is spokesperson for FAN.

It encompasses STAND, ASFA (Australian Soccer Fans Association) and the Green and Gold Army. Combined, the FAN lobby group presents a formidable fanzine voice on the Australian Soccer landscape.

"FAN will embrace a number of existing supporter groups," Monteleone mused. "As a united voice, we encourage supporter groups of all NSL teams to become FAN members to contribute to the popularisation of our game. FAN will have a significant national presence with representation in every state of Australia," he said.

Monteleone wrote to Soccer Australia and in his inimitable fashion he left no doubt as to his intentions.

"We just went ahead and devoted our time and money to the betterment of the game. It's no secret that Soccer fans have been vocal in their displeasure at watching the standing of the game erode over the last few years," Monteleone said.

"With STAND, we've staged demonstrations, we've displayed banners at NSL games, we've distributed car stickers, we've been on talk-back radio, maintained websites and went to FIFA. We've vented our anger at the poor administration and lack of free-to-air television.

"We're encouraged by the appointment of Ian Knop as chairman. He has demonstrated a vision and has acknowledged that fans deserve better (treatment than they got in the past). There's a real atmosphere of optimism out there," he said.

So, Monteleone has held out an olive branch to SA and Seven, without surrendering its self-appointed role of being the supporters' watchdog on Soccer issues.

"We (FAN) hope to be a vital link between Soccer supporters and Soccer Australia. Our only criteria is that all bodies conduct themselves in a manner that is for the greater good of our sport," Monteleone said.

FAN has already been talking with Melbourne community television station Channel 31 to launch a Soccer show for the coming NSL season.

"We'll ensure we'll spread the Soccer gospel the best way fans know how to make the game the number one sport in Australia," he said.

Letters to the Editor

Canberra Cosmos' Self-Destruction

Dear Sir,

The events that have evolved over the last week or so with Cosmos is another reflection of the state of this wonderful game which continually seems to attract controversy.

Being a former resident of Canberra, currently living in Sydney, but a life long supporter of the Cosmos since their entry into the National League I was disappointed to hear of the recent events, regarding the ownership and the coaching developments.

It appeared that when Danny Moulis took over last year and saved them from folding it seem that we were well on our way having stability and leadership. Unfortunately it was not to be and it seems now that we are back to where we have started.

The "sale" to new owner and so called mystery man Mr Bill Bariamis the President of St George Soccer Club in the NSW Premier League is a mystery in itself. It appears the Mr Bariamis is being "bank rolled" by none other than Mr Harry Michels.

The St George Soccer Club in the past two seasons certainly has not set the Premier League on fire. Ordinary results, with constant problems surrounding finances.

Lets hope this does not occur with the Cosmos under the new owner!

The sacking or release of Antonio Alzemendi is nothing less than a disgrace ... the supporters of Cosmos were excited about the prospect of our team being led by such a respected and knowledgable figure.

Mr Gardikiotis has never coached a club in the State Leagues or the National League. Yes he was appointed Coach of Tahiti National Team but was sacked/released after three months due to a embarrassing loss to little known Vanuatu.

His only claim to fame has been the Brazilian Football Academy which seem to be doing well from a profit point of view ... but we have not heard or seen any players produced from this academy.

This is not a letter to downgrade any body ... just one of concern. One would think that the owners would have thought carefully ... regarding this matter as results and winning results is the only way to get the supporters back to the Cosmos.

Surely, people like Raul Blanco, Ron Smith (who is rumoured to be returning from Malaysia) Michael Urukalo (if he is still in Australia) who have experience world wide would have been a more logical option.

Cosmos needs to reassure the supporters that they are on the right track in their decision making ... the sacking of Alzemendi and the appointment of Gardikiotis doesn't appear to be so.

I hope for the sake of all the supporters I am wrong!

Marko Pavasov,
Belfield, NSW.

Leon Gardikiotis (left), with Arsenal coach, Arsene Wenger, stepped into the breach after Uruguayan ex-international, Alzamendi was surprisingly sacked.

Paul Okon: Captain of the Australian national side.

SOCCER CHANNEL INDEED!

Dear Sir,

I would like to send a warm round of applause, and thanks, to SBS and their expanded coverage of the English Premier League this season.

It has been a few years since viewers without pay TV could enjoy a game of what is fast becoming the worlds most exciting league.

This commitment by SBS yet again firmly establishes them as Australia's true "Soccer" channel, as opposed to the lack-lustred effort of Channel Seven's coverage of the NSL.

I think perhaps Soccer Australia should take note of SBS's professional approach to soccer and their experienced team of reporters who do a most noble service to the world game.

They have proven time and time again that they are committed to a coverage that is purely for the good of the game and not for controlling purposes, as appears to be the case with Seven.

I think it is time that Seven starts to show a similar level of commitment or hand over the reigns to the true professionals.

Paul Hughes
Hindmarsh, SA

Stop the lowly friendlies

Dear Sir,

All these planned friendly-games against Lithuania and Latvia are pointless.

They are useless because needs to play nations in the fifties, not in the hundreds bracket of the FIFA rankings.

The games being arranged against Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Hungary was a good idea.

So I tell Frank Farina, "If you really want Australia to make it to the World Cup you should play teams in the fifties not the hundreds."

Robert Gertskis,
Maroubra, NSW

NSL NEEDS INNOVATIONS

Dear Sir,

Can I suggest we are in time to implement three simple changes for the October National Soccer League kick-off.

They will enhance the NSL cosmetically, and lead to more goals for mainstream Aussies to enjoy.

(1) Soccer Australia to demand all fourteen clubs to standardise their shirt numbering to large, clear 10"(26cm) numbers, and all shirts to include 31/2"(9cm) player names as in the Euro leagues.

(2) Implement the advancing — free — kicks 10 yards (9.15cm) on — dissent rule currently being used in English Premier League.

Mainstreamers from Rugby and Aussie Rules backgrounds can identify with similar principles in those sports.

(3) Introduce a kick-in when the ball is hoofed out On-the-Full by defenders to the side-lines, and continue the usual throw-in if the ball rolls out along with surface.

Defenders should not get away with the ugly boot to the grandstand without sanction.

This trial is supported by FIFA president, Sepp Blatter, who originally pushed for an optional kick-in or throw-in when he was striving for compromise and it's acceptance.

Con Athelstone,
Burnside, SA.

BILL TURNER THUMBS UP *ABSW*

Dear Sir,

Thank you for printing the details for the 23rd Final Series of the LG Bill Turner Cup (ABSW 14th August, p4).

The Executive Committee is gratified to be in a position to encourage the playing of Soccer in the junior section of high schools in this country by organising this Competition.

The Bill Turner Cup has expanded since its inception in 1979, with just 34 entries here in the Hunter Region, to extend from cairns in far north Queensland through the five Soccer states of Eastern Australia to North Eastern Victoria.

The long term goals are to firstly to have entires in the Bill Turner Cup from all secondary schools in this country, and by so doing, support the drive to "make the World Game Australia's Game." The same could be said of the girls' Bill Turner Trophy.

These aims were voiced by the new Chairman of Soccer Australia, Mr Ian Knop, and quoted in similar terms on page 2 of *ABSW.*

Thank you again for your support,

Noel Cocking,
Northern NSW Schools Soccer

SA'S DISGRACEFUL DEBT TO SOCCEROOS

Dear Sir,

I can't believe that after receiving $2.2 million from FIFA, for Australia's Confederation Cup success, Soccer Australia can't pay the players their owed amount of around half the prize money.

This is a national disgrace.

Guess what Soccer Australia, those players who bravely defeated World Champions France, and then Brazil, EARNED the $2.2 million that payed for YOUR tickets, meals and accommodation as well as a lot of other debts I'm sure you will be trying to fix.

How dare you take away what is rightfully theirs to correct any irresponsible spending you have incurred in you corrupted organisation.

Who are you anyway in comparison to the Superstars who have proudly represented your country after most were tired from long arduous European seasons.

Your just corporate refugees with more interest in your "back pockets" than the game itself.

If many of our players boycott the France international, which has been threatened, YOU Soccer Australia will be the laughing stock of the World.

This will also have a detrimental effect on our World Cup campaign which places a heavy importance on that fixture for last minute preparations.

I sincerely hope you produce that money which is theirs and immediately return it to its rightful and most deserving owners.

Don't think that if Australia doesnít qualify that you aren't at all accountable.

Your heads are more firmly placed on the chopping blocks than the brave soldiers who battle for your success.

Kristin Andrews
Dubbo, NSW

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

40-GOAL RECORD STANDS FOR 58 YEARS

Malcolm Dunbar is a goal-scoring hero of a bye-gone era, but he undoubtedly would have been a champion among the current generation of naturally gifted players.

Dunbar was the tormentor of South Australian first division defences throughout the early 1940's and late 1950's when he set a State record that is unlikely to be eclipsed.

In the 1943 season, he netted an amazing 40-goals in an 18-game campaign for Cumberland United.

He also headed the first division scorer's list in 1944, when he tallied 24 goals for Cumberland and to prove he had not lost the knack, topped the list with 22 goals for his new club Prospect nine seasons later.

State games were few and far between in those days, but Dunbar represented SA against such diverse opponents as South Africa, Broken Hill and the HMS Glory.

He was on the Australian squad short list at that time, but accepts graciously that the major forward position in the national team deservedly went to NSW champion Reg Date.

World War Two rudely interrupted sporting ambitions in 1944 when Dunbar joined the Royal Australian Navy.

But, even defenders of the nation needed recreation and Dunbar extended his talents by turning out for Darwin, which clinched the NT championship in the 1944-45 season.

His opportunity to play for SA arrived in 1947, with the match against the visiting HMS Glory crowning a memorable chapter in his career. There was an unexpected sequel to the latter game, when two years after the cessation of hostilities Dunbar was visited by a talent scout from Arsenal offering him a trial with the English club.

The scout was in fact, the team manager of the HMS Glory team that played SA.

"At that time, it would have meant a six-months sea voyage and also I was setting up a business in Adelaide with my Cumberland captain, Les Edwards, so I reluctantly refused the invitation," Dunbar said.

After rejoining the civilian ranks, Dunbar signed for Ascot Park (1947-49), Enfield (1952), Prospect (1953) before winding up his career with Birkalla Rovers in 1954-56.

He had a brief coaching stint with the Ascot Park junior team before earnestly concentrating on his alternative sporting pursuit of golf.

Born at suburban Mile End in 1926, Malcolm Mitchison Dunbar began his footballing career with the Goodwood Primary School and joined the Cumberland juniors in 1940.

He now lives at the popular tourist resort of Victor Harbor with his wife Doreen.

They have two daughters, Christine and Heather.

Sadly Dunbar has had to hang up his beloved golf clubs.

"I had a slight stroke and while I could still play golf, I wasn't content to play under an acceptable handicap," he said.

At his best, Dunbar played off a handicap of six and rates seven to eight as an "acceptable" round.

Like most true champions, Dunbar is extremely modest about his achievements, but recounts fond memories of team-mates and opponents.

"Vic Sharp (North -Durham) was the best Soccer player I have ever seen and was my toughest opponent.

"Vic and Vin Sharp, Kevin Heffernan from Port Adelaide, Jack Mather, Jack Smith, Alby Castle, Paddy Cranswick and Wally Elgood of Birkalla were all terrific players.

"I also rate George Topperwein the Sturt forward as a top player and I can't leave out my captain Les Edwards, who was a wonderful team man and the supplier of the passes that resulted in many of my goals," he said.

Dunbar is not keen on travel these days, so doesn't see local games, but follows Soccer on television and keeps a close watch on the fortunes of Cumberland in the newspapers.

He is well aware of the scoring exploits of Michael Brooks for the Blue Eagles and would like to see him in action during the Premier League finals.

Dunbar's tip for budding strikers — "It's not always easy to score, but I believe the secret is positioning. And that means being in the right place at the right time."

ALL TIME SA HIT LIST

1.Malcolm Dunbar — 40 goals in 18 games for Cumberland United in 1943

2.Horst Welk — 35 goals in 18 games for Adelaide Juventus in 1956.

3.Tony Kitas — 34 goals for Vytis in 1954

4.Ted Donnelly — 32 goals for USC Lion in 1960.

Footnote: Harry Jones scored 36 goals for Birkalla in 1960, but since the federation was split into two factions the feat is not recognised in the records.

Dino Mennillo: One of the NSL's restless players.

OLE, NO BULL

The marking was tight and you couldn't cut the tense atmosphere with a matador's sword. Croydon Kings were battling to avoid the dreaded drop to the State League, while Metro Stars were fighting to keep their finals hopes alive.

As a consequence, this penultimate minor round match substituted fire for finesse as the players rose to the occasion.

Radio 5RTI commentators Val Migliaccio and Rob Pepicelli were agreed that this was indeed, "A scrappy game."

"Neither team can scrape more that two passes together," Pepicelli remarked.

"You're right," said, Migliaccio. "If any team manages three or more successive passes, let's yell, Ole."

At the end of the match, the intrepid pair had uttered only four Ole's.

CRUSADER CON

Con of Athelstone has had a lobbing victory in his quest for truth and equality in the televising of his and our favourite game.

Having convinced Communications Minister Richard Alston that pay-TV stations should be prevented from gaining exclusive broadcasting rights should Australia qualify for the World Cup finals in Japan/Korea, Con now wants to extend his crusade.

"I would now like everyone to pull together to implore that SBS should be allowed to show 48 of the 64 World Cup 2002 matches NOT wanted by Channel 9," writes Con.

"We should pursue Channel 9 to hand over any of their 16 best matches that they are planning to just show on a delayed basis."

CUP FINAL

North East Metro Stars will clash with Adelaide City in the Women's Bailetti Cup Final at Hindmarsh Stadium tomorrow night (Wednesday, August 29)

Kick-Off time for the big event will be 8.30pm.

KINGS COACH ABDICATES

Phil Scardigno completed his two-season coaching assignment with Croydon last Saturday when the Kings played their final minor round match against White City Woodville.

The former Adelaide City midfielder was asked to remain as coach next season when Croydon will strive to regain Premier League status, but Scardigno declined.

Scardigno had mixed success during his tenure, guiding the Kings to their first trophy win in 25 years when it won the West End Federation Cup.

Fittingly, Croydon also finished fourth to qualify for the finals in what was its 50th Anniversary season.

But, it was mainly down hill this season with Croydon ending the campaign in second last spot to be relegated along with newcomers Port Pirie Spirit.

"My biggest mistake was in not adequately replacing last season's leading scorer Joel Porter," Scardigno said.

"I can't fault the players. "They did their best and played some really good football, but we just could not finish the chances we created."

RESTLESS STARS

Ex-Adelaide City star Angelo Costanzo was planning a pre-season try out with Italian Serie C club Trieste, but his Marconi coach Lee Sterrey said a firm NO to Angelo.

And, another former City player Dino Mennillo has had problems settling down since his marriage.

Mennillo looked certain to sign for Bradford City, but then moved on to Walsall.

Our last sighting of Dino was in Greece where he is believed to be considering linking up with Kallithea, the club coached by former Wollongong boss Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Marshall Thompson/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-8.30am, along with Phil Scardigno, Peter Millar, The Advertiser Soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and producer Robbie Popplestone.

Former Australian international and Adelaide City coach John Perin joins Crisp for the 5RPH SOS (Soccer On Sunday) program each Sabbath from 8.30am-9.30am to present the latest local, overseas and NSL news, scores and information.

Seven gets seat on SA board

Seven Network executive, Mr Shane Wood has been appointed to represent the TV network on the board of the Soccer Australia.

Announcing the choice of Wood last week, Soccer Australia Chairman Mr Ian Knop said:

"The Board considers it important that our television broadcast partner has the opportunity to assist the Board in the area of television and broadcast media. We look forward to Mr Wood's contribution to developing the profile of the World Game."

Mr Wood, a senior executive with the Seven Network boasts a strong background in sports broadcasting. His roles with Seven have included Executive Director of the Olympic Games, Director of Corporate Development and Chief Operating Officer of the Network's Pay Television arm, C7.

He is currently a director of Skiing Australia Ltd. and on the NSW Committee of the Australian Olympic Games Team Fund.

In his response, Wood declared that, "We see this appointment as a positive step forward for both parties".

"Clearly an effective working relationship between Soccer Australia and its broadcast partner is important to the success and growth of the code.

The Seven Network will however only have observer status on the Board.

Seven Network has long been the target of criticisms for its unfavourable 10year television deal with Soccer Australia, which it implements through late-night free-to-air telecast of NSL games. Most Soccer buffs have barracked the network for its sensitivity of Soccer fans and disregard for the game.

It remains to be seen if this new development will force an adjuustment to Seven's approach to the telecast deal.

South Australia Premier League Results

ROUND 22 PREMIER LEAGUE

Adelaide City v Blue Eagles (Postponed)
Playford Patriots v Metro Stars (Postponed)
Raiders v Campbelltown Red Devils (Postponed)

Olympic FC *(Parissos)*	1	**Port Lion** *(Martin)*	1
Port Pirie Spirit *(Christopoulos)*	1	**Modbury Jets** *(Yates, Donovan, Isaacson, Crowle)*	4
Croydon Kings *(Musalino)*	1	**White City** *(Mitchell, Petrov)*	2

STATE LEAGUE

Western Strikers v Birkalla (Postponed)
Noarlunga Bulldogs v Cobras (Postponed)
Enfield Falcons v Salisbury Apaches (Postponed)

Para Hills Knights *(Waine, Mulady, Jones, Christakos)*	4	**Northern Demons**	0
Cumberland Foxes *(Fowler, Stuart)*	2	**Hills Hawks** *(Maxwell, Rodriguez, Gallagher, Kaye)*	4
Panthers	0	**Seaford** *(Fisher, Coad)*	2

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

West End Federation Cup Final
(Hindmarsh Stadium)
Blue Eagles v Playford Patriots

***Torrential rain caused the postponement of three Premier and three State League games last Saturday. The backlog of fixtures means these final round games will be played throughout the week.**

Marconi on rampage in pre-season build-up

By Nick Guoth

Marconi Stallions this year took their pre-season trip to the Riverina in the southern areas of NSW with matches against teams from Wagga Wagga and Griffith.

Unlike other clubs who are, or will be travelling overseas for their pre-season the team from western Sydney have felt it more important to help those in country NSW.

Marconi played their second game against Griffith side Hanwood (coached by ex-Canberra and ex-Adelaide player Michael Musitano) on Sunday and apart from playing two games, one in each town, they also put on numerous clinics for the local kids including a number of visits to the schools in the area.

Last Wednesday night they played the first of two trial games in Wagga.

The scoreline may have been 9-0 to Marconi against a Soccer Wagga Wagga representative team, but it was the locals at Gissing Oval that night who were the real winners.

A healthy crowd of around 700 braved a brisk early evening to watch their heroes perform against the National League team.

For the statistic-minded, John Maisano scored a first half hat-trick. Brendan Renaud and substitute Alex Brosove notched two each with Norman Tome and Erich Anabalon adding the extras.

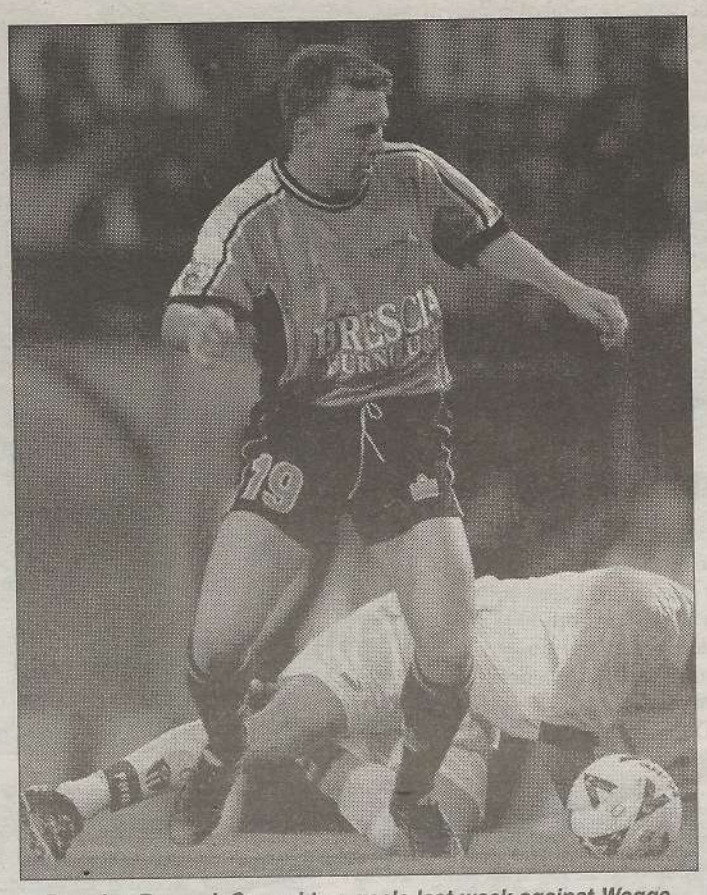
Yet for Marconi coach Lee Sterrey this was just the start of the new season's preparations. "We've had a big turnover in staff and thus we have a really young side this year."

Even with the scoreline there is still some work for Sterrey. "I thought overall on the bumpy pitch we played some good stuff, but we're looking to build on this."

Still, it was the trip itself which seemed just as important. Two seasons ago Sterrey, then in charge of the Newcastle Breakers, took his team to Griffith for a pre-season camp, but now with Marconi there is more of a motive to do so.

"We have a reason to go to Griffith", Sterrey said referring to the connections the club has with the town through relatives of board members and supporters, "but it is just as important that all the regional centres need to see the National League teams more often."

"Places like Wagga need to see these players out here. There's a lot of kids playing soccer and they need to see some of these stars and first grade National League players on a regualr basis. I'll be doing this yearly while I'm at Marconi."



Brendan Renaud: Scored two goals last week against Wagga.

Bill Turner Cup

Boys

QUARTER FINALS

Palm Beach-Currumbin	2
Kirwan	1
Hunter Sports	1-4
Lambton	1-3
Concord	3
McCarthy Catholic	0
Holy Spirit	
Bellambi	1
St Francis Xavier	0

Girls 15 Years

South Grafton	1
Duval	0
Cessnock	1-5
Davidson	1-4
Westfields Sports	3
Port Hacking	2
Crookwell	2
Mudgee	1

Polish import boosts Adelaide City Force

Polish international defender Grzegorz Lewandowski flew into Adelaide last week to join the Adelaide City Force as it prepares for the kick-off of the 2001-2002 NSL

The 30-year old has racked up five appearances for Poland and played 20 matches for the Polish Olympic team.

A performer of immense experience, Lewandowski has played in the Polish, French and Spanish leagues.

Force coach Zoran Matic told "The Adelaide Advertiser" he expects Lewandowski to fill the sweeper spot vacated by Milan Ivanovic and later Angelo Costanzo.

"The man has played throughout Europe at the highest level and if he can adapt to our conditions he will be very important to us," Matic was reported as saying.

"When we negotiated with him he told us money was not a primary concern because he had made his money and wanted to come to Australia for the experience."

COACHES SEEK CHANGES TO ACT LEAGUE

By Graham Cooke

ACT Premier League coaches want a return to an open age group for reserve grade, and a study of whether this section of the competition should be moved to Saturdays.

This was the consensus that emerged from a meeting of the coaches from all nine clubs, plus representatives from Soccer Canberra and the Senior League Management Committee.

Spokesman Graeme Plath (Tuggeranong United) said there was a feeling that the current under-23 restriction served no purpose.

"If a player is not capable of competing in the Premiership by the time he reaches 22, he probably never will be," Plath said. "It is pointless to carry on protecting him."

A feeling was emerging that the under-19 division should be a de-facto reserve grade for the firsts, as it was in many other competitions.

"However, as we hire these enclosed grounds for the entire day, we may as well play three games there," he said.

Some consideration will be given as to whether the flourishing masters competition, which plays on Sunday mornings on open ovals, could make up the early round of games.

SYDNEY TO HOST 2002 FUTSAL FIESTA

For the first time in almost 25years, NSW will host the Australian Futsal Indoor Soccer Championships in Sydney in 2002.

Since the sport became a national entity in the 70s, Canberra has primarily been the location of an event which, at times, hosted as many as 4000 players from across the country.

Recognising the need for a 'breath of fresh air' into the event, Futsal NSW worked tirelessly over recent months, in its bid to stage the event.

The new Soccer Australia Futsal Commission — the national controlling body for the sport — rewarded their efforts by granting the staging rights to Futsal NSW, last week.

The event will be staged at the home at the Sydney Olympic Park, as well as nearby venues at Lidcombe, Auburn and Five Dock.

The dates for the Nationals are:

January 8-11
Interstate Challenge Series (State teams)

January 11-13
Australian Club Teams Championship

As well as teams from each of the Australian States, interest has already been received from overseas countries who will add spice to the interstate series, not to mention the improved standard of play expected from international competition.

Enquiries about the titles can be directed to the Tournament Director, Australian Futsal Indoor Soccer Championships, 1st floor, 7 Underwood Rd, Homebush, 2140.

• Players of Wollongong Wolves and Menai Hawks in a group photoshoot before their friendly hitout.

Wolves thrill Menai on eve of Chinese Tour

The saying 'big bad Wolf' did not apply when Wollongong Wolves came along to play Menai Hawks Premier League team on Tuesday, 14th August just before the Wolves left for their tour of China.

They weren't all that big, they were very good ambassadors for Soccer, and Menai Hawks Junior Soccer Club were privileged to have had them visit and show their stuff.

Pristine weather conditions prevailed on the night, and the majority of those who attended were Junior Hawks players eager to see the Wolves. A capacity crowd in excess of 2,000 came to Buckle Reserve (home of Menai Hawks Junior Soccer Club), to witness this special event, and were treated to a feast of soccer.

The Wolves took groups of young players for drills prior to the match, no doubt showing them some 'tricks of the trade' that they might use next season.

Wolves players willingly signed anything put before them, be it T-shirts, posters, photos, etc., to keep their young fans happy. They even brought their hard-fought trophies with them, which were proudly put on display for all to see.

The game was hard fought, and the Wolves came out winners scoring three sensational goals in the second half. However, the Club's Premier league side were not disgraced, and held the Wolves scoreless in the first half.

Another highlight of the evening was the RooBall exhibition played at half time. Three games were played simultaneously using players from the Hawks 6, 7 and 8 years old age groups. A great evening was had by all, and Menai Hawks Junior Soccer Club were indeed privileged and grateful to have had the opportunity to play host to the Wollongong Wolves — Two Time NSL Winners.

Give us Okon, angry Boro fans demand

An avalanche of fan mail at English premiership side, Middlesbrough has slammed the club`s dismal performance after three games, and openly demanded the inclusion of defence stalwart and Aussie captain, Paul Okon in the first team.

Based on an analysis of mails received on the Middlesbrough website over the weekend, majority of the clubs fans are now questioning new manager, Steve McClaren's tactics which has seen the team slump to its third straight defeat — during which it conceeded seven goals and failed to score even once.

Interestingly, Okon, who was frozen-out in the first two games against Arsenal and Bolton Wanderers, was given the nod for last Saturday s visit to Everton. He lasted 68 minutes before being replaced by Robbie Mustoe, while Boro capitulated 2-0.

The fans however believe McClaren hasn't given players like Okon enough chance.

According to a fan, called Sean Grainger, "Paul Okon should simply be starting every game, if he is injured or not fully fit then fair enough - but if not then this is a real bad sign already, all these supporters on here cannot be wrong (and no-one is telling me we all don't know what we are talking about!). And when, are the club going to pull their heads out of the sand and go for another striker of the calibre of Boksic?"

Steve McClaren: Under pressure Middlesbrough manager.

Paul Okon: His struggles to make Middlesbrough first team is attracting fans' anger.

There was even a message from here in Australia from a fan simply named, Charlie, who noted that, "Yes, the average age of the team is high with a lot of old legs out there. Perhaps the inclusion of wing-backs with younger legs that can go forward and then recover to defend would definitely help.Okon must be brought in immediately and the sooner Marinelli is fit I am certain we will be able to compete".

Also, Ollie from Melbourne, argued that "Paul can give the team some direction and leadership. He can hold on to the ball and create chances. Make no mistake about it, Paul is all class. The fact is, Boro play better with him in the team and tend to actually win matches.Injury or poor fitness aside, there is no reason why Paul should be left out of the first 11".

With Okon`s presence against Everton over the weekend not making the expected difference, McClaren is now hinting at drastic measures to salvage Middlesbrough`s season According to him: 'We have given everybody a chance, working with the players we have, and now it's time for action.

'You can't afford to be despondent. Nor can you panic. You have to remain focused and determined where you are going. I know what it takes, the players and the characters we need`.

'It's very disappointing to lose the first three games, of course. But it's better that than masking everything until Christmas. We still have 35 games to get it right so I'm confident and positive we can string the results together.

'It may take 10, 15 or 20 games to do it but you can't turn Middlesbrough's recent history around overnight. You have to rebuild.'

CULINA STARTS OLYMPIC REBUILDING

Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina is on the lookout for experienced defenders as the Sydneysiders commence their build-up to the new NSL season.

Branko Culina: Searching for new defenders.

Despite efforts by the management to re-inforce the team ahead the new season, players are rather exiting instead of coming to the club, and in view of this, Culina is hellbent on reversing the trend.

The amiable Culina, who recently cane back from a two-month European trip to acquaint himself with latest trends in the game, has indicated that the club will intensify its search for replacements to key players who departed in the off-season.

Sydney Olympic lost the services of regulars such as Pablo Cardozo, Ante Juric, Dean Culina and Scott Baillie to rival NSL sides and Culina knows he now has to secure reliable replacements if Sydney Olympic to improve on their top-six finish at the end of the 2000-2001 season.

The Olympic sweat merchant also dwelt on his dream of modelling the club after the European game. According to him, clubs in Europe are scouting players for specific roles at an early age and then developing them for a senior career.

"In Australia we tend to throw players into different roles, irrespective if that is the role best suited to the players physical attributes.

"We maybe able to get away with it here because the pace is not as frenetic as it is in Europe. There, if you are filling in a role that you are not best suited for, then the extra split second it takes to think about a move, you get found out."

"In Europe, clubs will not play a right-sided player as a left-back. No way!" declared Culina.

Belconnen rise over Suns in Finals race

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen United all but made certain of the fourth and final play-off place in the ACT Premiership with a 1-0 win over Capital City Suns at Hawker Oval on Sunday.

Four days earlier Canberra Olympic had booked their spot by becoming the first side to beat Canberra Deakin in the premiership, the 1-0 win coming in a catch-up game.

That result keeps the minor premiership race alive, with the issue being decided when Deakin meet Gungahlin Juventus in the final round of the regular season this week.

Belconnen need only to draw with bottom club Weston Creek Royals to be certain of fourth place, but may face the finals campaign seriously depleted by suspensions and injuries.

The game against the Suns was marred by a major brawl mid-way through the second half that began with a behind-play clash between Simon Evans (Suns) and United's Manuel Semeno.

Referee Chris Blain struggled to keep order as the altercation spread to other players and escalated with officials from both teams on the pitch.

When Blain finally reasserted his authority he sent off both Evans and Semeno, together with Brent Turner, who had left the Belconnen substitutes' bench to join the incident.

The game finished with United reduced to nine — Daniel Camara had earlier been dismissed for two bookable offences in three minutes — and with goalkeeper Rade Kosanovic limping badly.

The goal that separated the sides came in the 52nd minute. Jaime Mauro showed all his considerable skills to slice past two defenders before setting up Robbie Schroder to score.

At this point United fully deserved to lead, only an inspired display by Suns' goalkeeper Mick Kirkham keeping his side in the game.

But after Camara's departure five minutes later United chose to defend in depth and from becoming the busiest player on the field Kirkham became a soggy and cold spectator as the rain poured down.

Even so the Suns could manage few scoring shots and the closest they came was when Kosanovic dropped a Dion Cannell free kick, but the defence came to his rescue and scrambled the ball away.

United coach Oscar Langone said it was always going to be a tough contest, with so much riding on the game.

"The incident was very unfortunate, but it looked a lot worse than it really was," he said. "We are obviously going to cop some suspensions, and I will have to wait until Tuesday to see what the extent of the injuries are."

Olympic's Baz Giampaolo said he was probably the most confused coach in the competition after his team became the first to take all three points from Deakin.

"The previous Sunday we were dreadful in losing to Monaro, then without a training session in between, we come out with this performance," he said.

The goal, late in the game, came from substitute Trent Flanigan, set up by Danny Macor.

Juventus made sure the minor premiership would be in doubt to the final weekend, beating Tuggeranong United 4-1 thanks to a hat-trick from the in-form George Cattanach and a single by John Glass; Monaro beat Weston Creek Royals 3-0 in a match which counted for very little, Matt Juliene, Lazar Simeonov and Ilija Prenzoski were the scorers.

Deakin came back on Sunday with a 7-0 win over University of Canberra.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	**15**	**12**	**2**	**1**	**56**	**10**	**38**
Gungahlin Juventus	15	12	0	3	54	12	35
Canberra Olympic	15	8	3	4	34	18	27
Belconnen United	15	8	1	6	28	21	25
Capital City Suns	15	7	2	6	38	34	23
Monaro	15	7	1	7	23	27	22
University of Canberra	15	4	1	10	19	51	13
Tuggeranong United	16	2	2	12	21	48	8
Weston Creek Royals	15	2	0	13	12	65	6

Viduka fires blanks after gunning down Arsenal

Four days after scoring a scorching grounder that beat Arsenal at their famous Highbury fortress, Aussie international striker, Mark Viduka threw away a handful of easy chances as Leeds only managed to snatch a point over the weekend against West Ham.

Expectations were high that the big Aussie would build on his season-opener against Arsenal by finding the range against WestHam, but sadly for him, it was not to be.

Leeds would have wrapped-up their weekend game against WestHam in the first half, if their Aussie striker, Viduka had not particularly fluffed an early first-half free header.

Leeds coach, David O'Leary however still looked happy enough at the point which gave his team seven points from their three opening matches.

At least there were no red cards to add to those Bowyer and Danny Mills received at Highbury, during the midweek when Leeds upstaged Arsenal in a fiery 2-1 win.

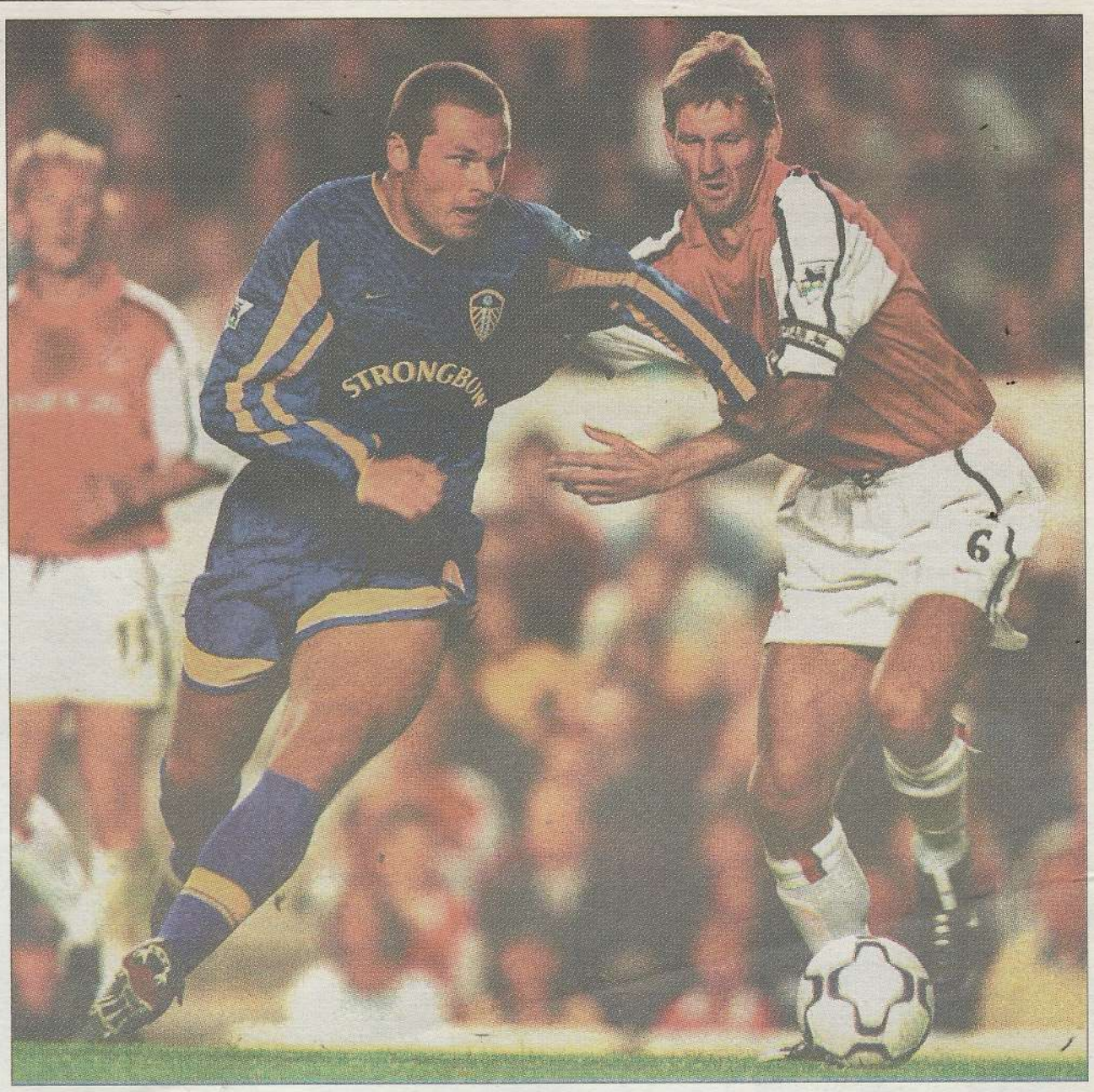
O'Leary said: "They (West Ham) made us work so hard. My players are very, very tired. It was a big effort for them on Tuesday and with this game we didn't need the heat.

"We could have scored, we know that, but what happened to Viduka happens to forwards and I know he'll make up for that. It took so much out of us and we are a passion team.

People say we're a bit too passionate. The major talking-point on Saturday, however was the searing heat which drained what energy Leeds had retained after their physically, and mentally, demanding victory against Arsenal at Highbury.

And even West Ham, who were spared their midweek clash with Chelsea because their redeveloped stadium was not quite ready, wilted as the temperature soared and you wondered why anybody could possibly argue in favour of summer football.

The high temperatures ultimately stifled fine talents like Leeds' Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and Robbie Keane. And eventually even 'an engine' as powerful as Lee Bowyer's stuttered and ran out of juice.



Mark Viduka (left) evades the attentions of Arsenal defender and captain, Tony Adams on his way to scoring the winning goal against the Gunners, last Wednesday.

No room for failure at Cosmos, Gardikiotis vows

By Graham Cooke

New Canberra Cosmos coach Leon Gardikiotis said failure is not an option in his task of building the National Soccer League club from nothing into a competitive side in six weeks. His reputation and ambitions for the future are at stake.

"I would not have taken this job if I were not completely satisfied with the set-up at the Cosmos," he said. "I have worked hard to build my reputation overseas, and a lot of people who have supported me, and recommended me, will be watching.

"If I got involved in a club with no future and became a failure, doors overseas would be closed to me forever. I would not take that chance."

It was a confident and, considering the circumstances, surprisingly relaxed performance as Gardikiotis met the Canberra media for the first time, just 24 hours after ending Antonio Alzamendi's one-month reign as team boss of the Cosmos, last week.

And while it seemed the Lords of Misrule had once again been unleashed to trample all over Canberraís soccer ambitions, acting chairman Phil Rutherford promised a new and financially-secure dawn.

"One of the difficulties has been the constant battle with Soccer Australia over the club's survival," he said. "Instead of the long term we were planning year-to-year, sometimes even month-to-month. That's hardly an attractive scenario for sponsors."

Leon Gardikiotis: Unveiling his game plan for Cosmos at a maiden media briefing, last week.

He said that with the injection of capital, Sydney businessman Bill Bariamis was going to put into the club (reported to be $3 million over the next five years) long-term planning was now a realistic option.

"There will also be the addition of a great deal of private enterprise expertise into the club," he said. The same structure would be maintained, with Soccer Canberra, Canberra Deakin, Belconnen United and the City Club retaining an interest, but the major shareholder would now be Mr Bariamis' private organisation.

Questioned further, he agreed the Cosmos were, in effect, passing into private ownership and that the appointment of Gardikiotis as coach was an integral part of the deal.

Gardikiotis said that in his talks with the new administration, concern had been expressed about Alzamendi's lack of knowledge of the local scene, his lack of English skills and the fact he would be heavily dependent on others, at least for some time.

The new coach promised to have the basis of a team together within days and said he was not concerned at the lack of preparation time before the NSL season kicks off in October. "I have coached international teams where you are rarely given more than a few days to assemble a workable combination," he said. "This should be no problem."

Gardikiotis promised to involve local coaches as well as players, possibly on a rota system, and said he would be involving the whole soccer community with the Cosmos.

"It is not just going to be what can everyone give to the Cosmos, it will be what can we give back to Canberra," he said.

"I will be asking fans to be patient, but at the same time I am not getting ready with any excuses — or saying that just because it is my first year, I will be happy with third last. We will strive to make the semi-finals."

Canberra's new team boss, the ninth in six years, is fresh from completing a contract as the national coach of Tahiti. He has been associated with the prestigious Brazilian Football Academy, has coached in the NSW League and was assistant at Wollongong City in 1995. At various times he has worked and studied with some of the best coaches in the world.

He is not new to the ACT. Back in 1987 he played for several months in the Canberra City Griffins team that missed out by a point on winning the NSW League and gaining promotion to the NSL just one season after relegation.

"I will be asking fans to be patient, but at the same time I am not getting ready with any excuses — or saying that just because it is my first year, I will be happy with third last. We will strive to make the semi-finals."

Glimt leaves glint in Gibson's eyes

Bodo-Glimt's Aussie wing-back Chad Gibson makes a good point when discussing his first impressions of football in Norway's Tippeliga — the name of the national football league.

Gibson moved to Glimt on loan from Australian National League side, Marconi at the beginning of the season and recently told tribal-football.com: "When I arrived it was 20 below zero and we were training indoors for the first two months.

"I couldn't even feel my feet in the first couple of games!"

While Lillestrom's Clayton Zane, the current Tippeliga top scorer, appears to have left compatriots such as Gibson, Ante Juric (Molde) and Kasey Wehrman (Moss) in the dust, it should be remembered that this is the big forward's second season in Norway — following a disastrous spell with Molde.

Indeed, Gibson feels he's now more acclimatised to Norway's harsh weather conditions and is ready to turn in a big end-of-season performance.

"I have done a lot of extra work to adapt my playing style to Norway, so I'm hoping for a big end to my season.

"When times are tough you just have to realise how lucky you really are to be doing what you love. I plan to stay in Europe, this year was always going to be a transition year — a stepping stone.

"It was always going to be tough to adapt to life on and off the field (in Norway)."

After starting the season in the first team, Gibson found himself on the outer as bottom-of-the-table Glimt had a change of manager.

"We have spoken on numerous occasions and he (new boss Oystein Gaare) assures me I'm definitely part of his plans.

"He's basically told me that with the situation we were in at the bottom of the table, we had to get out of and he chose to do this by playing the senior players and guys who have been here for several years.

"Oystein has worked with me on my game to adapt it to the Norwegian style of play and I'm now geared towards playing a vital role in the last three months of the season."

Gibson was brought to Norway and Glimt by former manager Dag Opjordsmoen, who lost his job midway through the season after a string of poor results.

"I was asked to come over and trial. I trialled for five days as they needed to see how performed in the flesh and how I fitted in. I did a medical before I left and within a month of returning home the deal had been done.

"I had no problems with Dag, he really took a lot of time to explain his style and system of play to me.

"With Dag everything was based on a system. Oystein has stabilised things and worked a lot on ironing out parts of our play that have been letting us down as a squad."

A club well-known for its youth system, Glimt is a regular port-of-call for scouts from Europe's bigger leagues. In attacking duo Bengt Saeternes and Trond Fredrik Ludvigsen, Glimt have two of the most sought-after players in Norway.

Centre-forward Saeternes has been linked with Southampton, while youngster Ludvigsen is expected to move to one of Europe's bigger clubs.

"Bengt is a great target man who could definitely make an impact straight away in England, he's strong, has two good feet and outstanding aerial ability," says Gibson.

"Trond is a young talent who is fast and extremely direct."

So what of the future for Gibson? With Glimt moving towards mid-table respectability, the young Aussie is hoping for an extended first team run to show he can succeed at this level.

"I'm here for the remainder of the season on loan and I find out within the next month whether Glimt will take up the option to purchase me outright.

"I want to be in Europe for a long time. I have not come close to realising the goals I have set myself. I want success in my European career and my major goal is to represent my country, I will do everything I can to achieve these goals and more.

"Whether my future is here once the season finishes, or elsewhere in Europe, remains to be seen."

Chatting with Gibson you quickly realise he's loving life as a professional in Europe and is thriving on the step up in interest the game receives in Norway compared with Australia.

"For the media here football is the main focus whether it be on TV or in the press. We have two local newspapers here in Bodo, with reporters at every one of our training sessions.

"Football dominates the media, particularly the day after the match as each game is reviewed in depth. The pressure is very high — especially with the situation (bottom-of-the-table) we were in before!

"But you know no matter where you play your football — Australia, Norway or England — if you live for your football, you will want to perform at your best all the time and win every game.

"To be living out a childhood dream everyday is unbelievable."

*Courtesy, TRIBALFOOTBALL

Clayton Zane: Another Aussie international leading the goalscorers' chart in Norway.

Chad Gibson: While still on active duty for Marconi Stallions before jetting-out to Norway where he now laces boots for Bodo-Glimt FC in the first division.

Victoria Soccer Federation
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Underachieving Cavaliers reflect on season 2001

By Bert van Bedaf

THERE's nothing that enables a club to focus on the future more than punctuating the present with past glories. It is precisely what Green Gully did on presentation night two Saturdays back as it celebrated its very successes of 30 years ago.

By Green Gully's high-achieving standards its Victorian Premier League season was nothing short of a huge disappointment.

Not only did it fail in its quest to claim its third championship in a row, it also missed out on winning a top five position and therefore robbed itself of the opportunity to defend its back-to-back titles won in seasons 1999 and 2000.

The Cavaliers had something to live up to, but their attitude let them down. "We just weren't good enough. We weren't hungry enough.

We had won two championships in a row and perhaps we thought it would come to us too easily. We let the club down," said Tony Neceski, a committed forward whose season had not lived up to his own expectations and performance.

It was a recurring theme among players. Defender and captain Steve Douglas, who won the club's player of the year for a second, consecutive time, conveyed the general feeling. "This club deserves nothing but success. Let`s do it next season," he said in his acceptance speech.

Douglas, who has been harboring thoughts of retirement but might be persuaded to pull on the green-and-white shirt for one more season, won the club's highest award boots down.

With 65 votes he was five votes ahead of another defender Peter Spiteri. Then there was a huge gap. Third-best was midfielder Henry Valkovski, who finished on 49 votes.

Coach Ian Dobson, who has won VPL titles with Altona Magic as well with Green Gully and won a national league championship with Melbourne Knights, took the trophy-less season particularly hard. Dobson was shattered after his side lost 3-2 to Preston in the last round, failing to clinch fifth spot and a finals position.

The Cavaliers were short on striking power. Ice Kutlesovski suffered injuries and the lack of goal makers told on the former champions. They were far too inconsistent and did not string two victories together all season.

In the third last round they lost 2-1 to relegated side South Dandenong. In the penultimate round they lost 3-0 to losing grand finalist Port Melbourne.

Yet, in round 13 they beat the eventual title winner Heidelberg United 4-2 in a near-perfect display. This was the season that ran away from the Cavaliers, who also enjoyed a stint in the national league. After three successive Victorian titles in 1981-83, Green Gully spent three seasons in the NSL before returning to the Victorian league in 1987, finishing runners up to long defunct Polonia.

The groundwork for these successes were laid with the club's first title in 1971, when it won the Metropolitan League division two. This was followed up with the division one championship in 1976.

Last Saturday night, those heroes from 30 and 25 years ago were honored and remembered. Green Gully was founded as Ajax in 1955 by Maltese migrant Henry Moakes. The first president was George Cassar with committee members Martin Camilleri, Charles Psaila, Paul Azzopardi and Alfred Grimaud.

In 1966, Green Gully finished runner-up in division three of the Metropolitan League and was promoted to division two, winning its first title under player-coach Tony Vella five years later

The players of those days were George Zoumboulakis, Nick Kolbl, Boris Braini, Emmanuele Spiteri, Mario Borg, John Borg, Charles Grimaud, Henry Dynak, Victor Vella and Charles Grimaud, Henry Dynak. Also the squad were W. Fenech, Joe Dimech, Michael Gambin, George Smith, Arnold Langer. Tony Cassar, Eddy Galea and Joe Muscat. Team manager was Lew Stafrace.

In 1976, the Cavaliers won their second championship team under coach Ian Petherick. The squad comprised of Mick Banagan, the league's top goal scoer, Roy Collins, the league's best player, Joe Thompson, Frans Berens, Mario Borg, Peter Banagan, Mick Borg, Terry Banagan, the youngest of the three brothers, Joe Muscat, John Agius, Manny Spiteri, David Cole, Malcolm Bradshaw, Peter Msrshall, John Gady, Mick Brazil, Eddy Klimczak and Andy Segi. Stafrace was again team manager Charles Farrugia paid tribute to those past champions. The club's longstanding president, Farrugia was treasurer in 1971 and president in 1976. Segi is now a soccer commentator with community radio stations Northern and Southern FM.

"This year is the anniversary of our first premiership. It is great to see how we have developed to what we are today. It is a pleasure to see the players here together. They must be feeling like kings, having won the clubs first premiership," Farrugia said.

The future of Green Gully, as it is for any club, is its youth. Their successes must be bearing fruit for the seniors next season. Green Gully reserves side has won back-to-back premierships with some outstanding talent in the side.

Ian Dobson: Green Gully coach.

Reserves striker Ben Stafrace won player of the year, ahead of central defender Derek Galea and midfielder Aaron Galea. But it wont be easy for Green Gully to hang on to its young talent. Daniel Debevc is already training with NSL side Melbourne Knights and went with them on tour to Vietnam "It is hard to find or keep quality players these days," Farrugia said. "As soon as they are any good, young players go to national league clubs or they leaving for overseas. Its good for them, but clubs like us suffer in the end, because we need to fill the vacant positions," he said.

Dobson will stay on for his third year. "We did not do too well this season. We must do better next season," he said.

BEST PLAYERS AT VPL CLUBS

SEVERAL Victorian Premier League clubs held their annual presentations, announcing best players awards in recent weeks:

John Angelovski was awarded best player at Preston Lions, with consistent performances throughout the season.

Angelovski played a major part in Preston’s gutsy survival campaign. At one stage, the Lions were headed for relegation, but a desperate fight in the latter stages of the season saw them retain their place in the VPL.

At finals contender Bulleen Zebras, one of Victoria`s hardest working midfielders Sava Rusmir took out the best player award.

The Lions had their heart set on clinching a place in the grand final this season, but they were thwarted by eventual championship winner Heidelberg United.

Rusmir proved his value to the team all season and was a popular winner. Runner-up was Dean Tartaglia.

At St Albans, midfielder Mijo Trupkovic won the best player award. A former Melbourne Knights payer, Trupkovic had a rollercoaster season with the Saints, who earlier in the season were leading the competition and finished fighting to escape relegation.

Wheelchairs roll into new season

The 2001 VSF Wheelchair Soccer Leagues kicked off in the South-East on Saturday 18th August at the Ashburton Pool & Aquatic Centre.

The beginning of a new chapter in the history of 4 VSF clubs was penned with the South-East League's Senior and Reserve competition. Bentleigh Greens, Knox City, Nunawading City and the Oakleigh Cannons were represented in what mounts as the best season yet for the South-East region.

Through such great support from these clubs, players both new and experienced will enjoy every minute of season 2001.

The clubs have pro-actively opened up their doors to a whole new section of the community whereby players and their family will have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of becoming long-term members.

If you want to support your club, get involved in a voluntary capacity or support the teams every Saturday at Ashburton Pool & Recreation Centre from 11am to 4pm.

If you are in the North-West Region, the League kicks off this Saturday 25th August at the Broadmeadows Leisure Centre. For fixtures and kick off times go to the Competition section of the VSF website.

For further information on Wheelchair Soccer please call Chris Baba at the VSF on 9685-8700.

Results from the previous weekend:
Bentleigh Greens Reserves bt Knox City Reserves 2-0
Bentleigh Greens Seniors drew with Knox City Reserves 0-0
Nunawading City Reserves 2 bt Bentleigh Greens Reserves 2 1-0
Oakleigh Cannons Seniors bt Nunawading City Seniors 2-0
Oakleigh Reserves drew with Nunawading City Reserves 1-1

League Rounds & Results

State & Provisional Leagues Catch Up Round Results 25 August 2001

On Saturday, 25th August 2001, a number of rescheduled State League and Provisional League fixtures were played. The final outstanding rescheduled fixture will be played on Tuesday, 28th August 2001, when Clayton take on Mooroolbark at Jack Edwards Reserve, Oakleigh.

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISION 1 SOUTH-EAST
Round 16 - Tuesday, 28th August, 2001
Clayton vs Mooroolbark 7:30PM (Seniors Only)
To be played at Jack Edwards Reserve, Edwards Street

RESULTS OF RESCHEDULED FIXTURES
Match Results for Saturday 25th August 2001 are as follows:

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE
DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST RESERVES
Round 14 - Saturday, 25th August, 2001
South Springvale vs Stonnington City Reserves 6 - 3

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST RESERVES
Round 20 - Saturday, 25th August
Langwarrin vs Doncaster Rovers Reserves 3 - 0

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISION 1 NORTH-WEST RESERVES
Round 20 - Saturday, 25th August, 2001
Elwood City vs Brunswick City Reserves 1 - 1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH-EAST SENIORS
Round 12 - Saturday, 25th August, 2001
Mooroolbark vs Newborough/Yallourn Seniors 3 - 1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH-EAST SENIORS/RESERVEs
Round 20 - Saturday, 25th August, 2001
Brandon Park vs Mitcham United Seniors 1 - 3 / Reserves 1 - 0

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST SENIORS/RESERVES
Round 3 - Saturday, 25th August, 2001
Whittlesea United vs Brimbank Seniors 2 - 1 / Reserves 0 - 4
Match details for Tuesday, 28th August 2001 are as, Oakleig
(Melways Ref: 69-H9)

CRAZY JOHN'S LEAGUE 1 RESULTS: Firsts: Rd 20:
Lalor United 0 Fitzroy City 0, Frankston Pines 14 (Moore M, Healey A, Leopold C, Melino C (2), Lewis C (9)) Sunshine Georgies 1 (Nitsios J), Westgate 1 (Lingurovski T) Thomastown Zebras 1 (Samad Rauf A), Whittlesea Stallions Oakleigh Cannons , Western Suburbs 4 (Mussel G, Bacak B, Bacak A, Gavran T) Frankston Strikers 2 (Malcolm T, Traynor C), Spring. White Eagles 0 Westvale 1 (Karasavidis K)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1:
FIRSTS Round 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Fitzroy City	**20**	**13**	**3**	**4**	**39**	**25**	**42**
Whittlesea Stallions	19	13	1	5	39	20	40
Westvale	20	12	3	5	39	27	39
Oakleigh Cannons	19	11	4	4	57	20	37
Western Suburbs	20	9	5	6	39	24	32
Frankston Pines	20	8	6	6	51	38	30
Westgate	20	7	6	7	30	23	27
Thomastown Zebras	20	7	5	8	28	33	26
Spring White Eagles	20	7	5	8	22	34	26
Lalor United	20	4	8	8	24	38	20
Frankston Strikers	20	3	3	14	19	41	12
Sunshine Georgies	20	0	1	19	8	72	1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1:
Reserves: Rd 20: Lalor United PP Fitzroy City, Frankston Pines 4 Sunshine Georgies 1, Westgate 0 Thomastown Zebras 1, Whittlesea Stallions Oakleigh Cannons , Western Suburbs 1 Frankston Strikers 2, Spring. White Eagles 4 Westvale 3

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1: RESERVES
Round 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westgate	**20**	**13**	**3**	**4**	**51**	**30**	**42**
Thomastown Zebras	20	12	5	3	45	17	41
Whittlesea Stallions	19	12	4	3	39	14	40
Westvale	20	12	0	8	49	27	36
Western Suburbs	20	10	6	4	42	20	36
Frankston Pines	20	7	8	5	41	32	29
Fitzroy City	19	6	6	7	30	25	24
Frankston Strikers	20	6	2	12	20	54	20
Oakleigh Cannons	19	4	7	8	27	39	19
Sunshine Georgies	20	4	3	13	12	50	15
Spring. White Eagles	20	3	5	12	22	39	14
Lalor United	19	3	3	13	22	53	12

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

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PREMIER LEAGUE WRAP-UPS By Glenn Davis

By Glenn Davis

Coach Mal Bland was hailed the new Houdini at Klump Road after Mt. Gravatt miraculously escaped relegation with an upset 1-0 win over an injury-riddled Brisbane City in the final round of the Queensland premier league last Saturday night.

Mt.Gravatt went into the Brisbane City clash in last place on goal differences and hot favourites for the chop to the semi-pro league with only Bland and his young squad the only true believers an upset was possible.

A brilliant 60-minute free kick from Wade Baldwin, which curled around the wall from 20 metres into the top corner, was enough to give Mt. Gravatt the edge before City was reduced to 10-man when Alan Cameron was sent off for retaliation by referee Calvin Daunt.

Mt. Gravatt finished equal second last with Pine Rivers after its 1-1 draw with the Gold Coast and ironically it was Baldwin's strike, which kept The Hawks in the premier league on goal differences.

Both Mt. Gravatt and Pine Rivers finished the season with the same goal difference but Mt. Gravatt scored one more goal than Pine Rivers during the season to finish third last.

Bundaberg, whose season fell apart in the second round, lost the automatic relegation battle going down 3-1 to Taringa at Jack Speare Park after taking a 1-0 half time lead.

Pine Rivers finished second last and will play off against semi-pro club The Gap in the two-legged tie for the right to stay in next year's league.

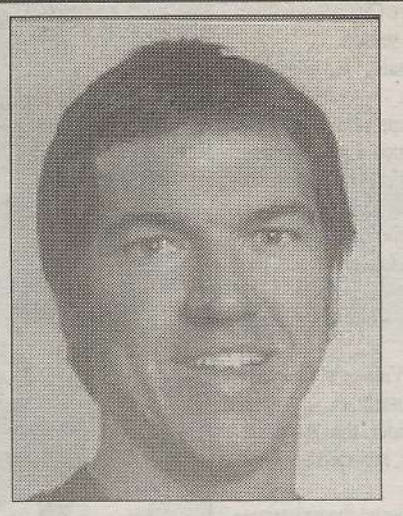
In others matches Cameron Williams netted to give Rochedale a 1-0 win over Toowoomba while Brisbane Lions warmed up for the finals with a 5-1 thrashing over Easts.

As expected Wynnum wrapped up the championship with a 4-0 win over Ipswich Knights after leading 2-0 at the break at Carmichael Park.

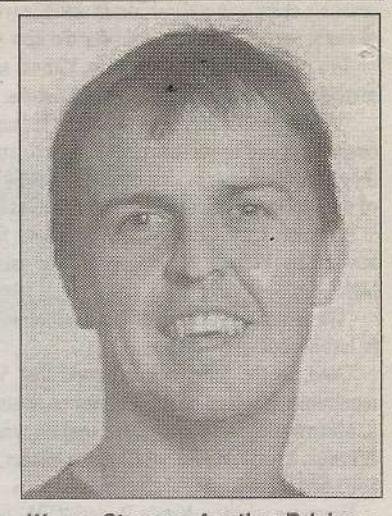
Bland was ecstatic after beating Brisbane City and was never over awed by the occasion.

"We've had a great trot against Brisbane City in recent years with a win, a draw and a loss in the three games we've played this year," Bland said.

Vedran Becirbegovic: Missing from action.



Damian Waugh: Sidelined by injury.



Wayne Strange: Another Brisbane City star who missed the game against Mt Gravatt.

"We beat Brisbane Lions when we weren't supposed to earlier this season and although it was 2-0 City only just beat us at Spencer Park.

"I had a catch cry before the game and I kept telling it to the lads - We're going to win because we want to."

Bland conceded Brisbane City had the opportunity to beat Mt. Gravatt but were denied by a man of the match performance from goalkeeper Graham Ross.

Ross, who pulled off one spectacular save just before half time, came out of retirement earlier this year to help the youthful Mt. Gravatt with his wealth of experience following several seasons with Brisbane Strikers in the national league.

"Brisbane City played well and they're one of the best sides we've played all year and they had their chance to put us away," Bland said.

"But Rossie was brilliant and a deserved man of the match."

City coach Danny Wright was lamenting the lack of finishing in front of goals but wasn't too critical of his players who also suffered a loss to Easts in the previous round.

Brisbane City was without several key players including goalkeeper Scott Higgins with a shoulder injury, Damian Waugh (hip), Wayne Strange ('flu), Mark Battistin (achilles) and Vedran Becirbegovic (leg).

Rumours of players' unrest over match payments at Brisbane City have swept soccer circles for several weeks but Wright said the club's financial problems was no different to a lot of other Brisbane clubs who have been struggling in the premier league.

"I could have played a couple of them with a pinch but I'm concentrating on Wynnum in the first semi-final," Wright said.

"I think Mt Gravatt had two shots on goal all night and got one while we had that many I lost count.

"You'd think we would have got one goal with the number of chances we had but Graham Ross probably had his best game of the season.

"If I've got one concern for the finals coming up it's our lack of finishing."

Historically all fixtures are played on the same day at the same time in the last fixture to ensure no club is given an advantage in the final premiership round but this year the Queensland Soccer Federation scheduled the final round over two days.

Wynnum coach Peter Tokesi benefited from that decision and knew he had thechampionship parceled up at half time against Ipswich when news of Brisbane City's loss filtered back to Carmichael Park.

"City had to win by a big margin to have a chance for the title while we only had to draw to win and I knew at half time we had it won and it took a lot of pressure of me personally," Tokesi said.

Wynnum opened the scoring in the 25th minute when Shane Gilroy headed home a cross from Josh Rose then grabbed a two goal buffer on the stroke of half time when Scott Rocker side footed home another Rose cross.

Ipswich had three strong chances after the break and could easily have regained the lead before Rose capitalised on a defensive error in Ipswich to give Wynnum a 3-0 lead in the 65th minute.

With ten minutes remaining Rocker was brought down in the penalty box and had no hesitation stepping up to take the spot kick for a deserved 4-o victory.

PREMIER FOOTBALL

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE (2001 FINAL SERIES)

Wednesday 29th August
Premier League Promotion/Relegation Play-offs

Friday 31st August
Premier League Promotion/Relegation Play-offs

Saturday, Sunday September 8, 9
Premier League Elimination Final

Saturday, Sunday September 15, 16
Premier League Preliminary Final

Saturday, Sunday September 22, 23
Grand Final

XXXX LEAGUE

ROUND 22 RESULTS

Wynnum	4	Ipswich Knights	0
Mt Gravatt	1	Brisbane City	0
Rochedale Rovers	1	Toowoomba Raiders	0
Pine Rivers	1	Gold Coast City	1
Taringa Rovers	3	Bundaberg Waves	1
Brisbane Lions	5	Eastern Suburbs	1

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wynnum	**22**	**15**	**6**	**1**	**59**	**21**	**51**
Brisbane City	22	13	6	3	44	20	45
Brisbane Lions	22	11	7	4	50	30	40
Rochedal Rov	22	12	4	6	40	28	40
Gold Coast City	22	10	7	5	39	24	37
IPSW Knights	22	10	7	5	34	24	37
Taringa Rovers	22	8	4	10	28	34	28
Eastern Suburbs	22	6	4	12	34	55	22
T'wmba Raiders	22	4	6	12	23	38	18
Mt Gravatt	22	5	2	15	27	56	17
Pine Rivers Utd	22	4	5	13	26	55	17
Bundaberg Waves	22	4	2	16	26	45	14

VIDMAR SET TO LEAVE FORCE

By Allan Crisp

Adelaide City supporters were in shock when the Force parted company with former Socceroo captain Alex Tobin.

A similar feeling of disbelief currently prevails with last asonís skipper Aurelio Vidmar set to leave City after failure reach agreement over terms for the new season.

In a press release last Saturday, Vidmar said, "Ian Gray, my anager has handed my CV to other clubs.

"Adelaide City has been my home for nine years and obvisly I am sad to see the club slide into such a position that ey apparently have been unable to renew contracts with six their most experienced players in the past 15 months."

Adelaide City CEO Jeff Widera said the club had been vised by Vidmar's manager that the asking price was too gh.

"We sent confirmation of our position to Vidmar's manag- last Monday," Widera said.

"And, in the letter we indicated that Vidmar's financial quirements would be difficult for us to sustain.

Meanwhile, Adelaide City, trading under the Adelaide ventus Sports and Social Club Inc banner, reported a loss of 83,584.00 at its AGM on Sunday.

However, auditor, Vatale Rugari, CPA, noted the existence an Executed Deed of Guarantee and Indemnity between ub president Bob D'Ottavi and Adelaide City Force Soccer ub that D'Ottavi will provide surety to pay to the club the ount of any losses incurred by the club in the following ee years.

Aurelio Vidmar: "I'm sad to see the club slide into a position where they are unable to renew contracts."

NSW YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

GRADE 13: Northern Spirit 3 Sydney Olympic 2.
GRADE 14: Northern Spirit 1 Blacktown City 0.
GRADE 15: Northern Spirit 4 Marconi Stallions 1.
GRADE 17: Sydney Olympic 1 Blacktown City 3.
GRADE 18: Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Macarthur Rams 0.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE

PRELIMINARY FINAL

GRADE 11: Wollongong Wolves 3 Northern Spirit 1.
GRADE 12: Sydney Olympic 0 Marconi Stallions 1.

NSW PSSA Boys Knockout Soccer Competition

The NSW PSSA 2001 Boys Knockout Soccer Competition has been running since the beginning of Term 2. Over 500 schools across NSW will participate.

Bossley Park Public School began their attempt at the competition in the sydney South West Area pool. 30 schools competed. Bossley park won the Area Final after five rounds, one to nil.

They are the Sydney South West Area Champions.

This week, Bossley park will compete against the Western sydney Area Champions, Banks PS, at Marconi Park, Bossley Park. The winner of this round will go on to play against a Western NSW school, Eglinton P.S. (just outside of Bathurst). It will be an away game.

Bossley Park Public is coached by JUSTIN DAVIES.

Bill Turner Cup ... Bill Turner Cup ... Bill Turner Cup

IT'S A DANIEL-AFFAIR AT HOLY SPIRIT

By Dom Mitsio

You only have to call on "Daniel" to get a really top ort when Bill Turner p semi-finalists Holy irit College, Bellambi e the field. There are r of them in the side, niel Sartor, Daniel ust, Daniel Sanese and niel Guido with all of m being really capable tballers.

This was in evidence ing last weeks quarter al against the talented St. ncis Xavier College m Florey A.C.T.

The Daniels plus the rest the team registered a se 1-0 victory in a great ne played on the NSW th Coast's Elizabeth k, Bellambi.

A lost possession for the itors in the eleventh ute saw a powerful shot Angelo Di Sapia brilitly saved by Xaviers lkeeper Nick Owen but ically for him the ball at the feet of Pete ffney (son of the Brisbane great, Lennie Gaffney) who slotted home the winner.

Overall the Bellambi side looked the stronger but the Florey boys never stopped trying, with many of the home town experts wishing they could have the brilliant ACT champion Aaron Donelly kept behind to join them, for their trip to Edgeworth.

Bellambi's Jacob Timpano and Peter Gaffney both had "blinders" with Angelo Di Sapia close to them.

However it would be fair to say that coach Fiore Stannizo has blended all his players into an outstanding unit and it will take a top side to take them out on September 11 and 12.

Their 7.30pm. semi-final is against Concord High coached by the famous player and soccer personality Trixie Tagg.

Apart from young Donelly who would have wowed the crowd at Edgeworth, Nick Owen, Brent Troth and "wizard" Stephen Polglase caught the eye for the ACT champions.

Fortunately the match was well controlled by referee Gary Freeme in front of over 400 spectators from school, Bellambi and a bus load from Florey.

In the other Edgeworth semi-final at 6pm. Queensland champions Palm Beach-Currumbin play Hunter Sports High, Gateshead.

Hunter made it through in a breathtaking quarter-final against Lambton High at Edden Oval by 1-4p to 1-3p. It was a match in which it could be said, both tams played well enough to win despite very strong winds sweeping across the pitch.

However referee Paul Keeley played the advantage throughout, which made for a top seventy minutes of football, a fact that was lost on a small number of the four hundred plus spectators watching the game.

Attention!

The 2002 Bill Turner Cup and the girls' Bill Turner Trophy Semi-finals are set down for Tuesday September 10 and the Play - Offs and Finals on Wednesday September 11.

CLASH OF DATES CONFUSE CROOKWELL HIGH

By Dom Mitsio

Many school soccer and athletic carnival organisers are wondering if little Crookwell High School from the NSW Southern Highlands' efforts are not now in vain, after it qualified for the Bill Turner Trophy semi-finals billed for Edgeworth on September 11, only to learn that the AWSA championships had been moved this year from the July holidays to September.

Some of the schools involved had blissfully-progressed believing that all was well.

Not only has the Bill Turner Trophy been affected, but so has the Combined High Schools, the Catholic competitions and the Schools Athletic Championships and many officials are really angry not only at the change of date but that they were unaware of those changes.

Over a two-year period, coach John Roberts had built up his Crookwell side centred around his already -recognised rising star Renee Cartwright. John has moulded into his squad of recognised soccer players into a talented group of girls from other sports. And what a job he has done to make it to the semi-finals from barely 100 girls, 15 years and under 7 to 10.

How unfair it is that he should lose his top player at this time and how unfair that the delightful student Renee should be forced to shoulder this kind of publicity?

But they are not alone. Coach Gerry O'Conner from South Grafton is also feeling the situation. South Grafton were the finalists last year and they won the Star Player Award through the brilliant efforts of Kenisha Warren.

This season South Grafton and the Warren family have their star Tiera, the younger sister of Kenisha, forced into this unwanted position.

The writer asked a Senior Executive of the Bill Turner Trophy competition about this situation and he, in a frustrated voice explained that their dates had been established for a number of years and he understood the other body played previously in July.

[He understood the other semi-finalists Westfields and Cessnock would not be affected but he did quip that one beaten quarter-finalist had retorted that the "loss had got them out of an untenable situation"].

While the Executive sounded frustrated, if not angry, he did say resolutely that the players and/or the parents had every right to make their own choices and that all the Executive members supported them for so doing.

But it didn't change their frustration and disappointment and their empathy for the CHS, Catholic Competitions and the Athletic Series plus any other groups not yet known who have been placed in this most unfair position.

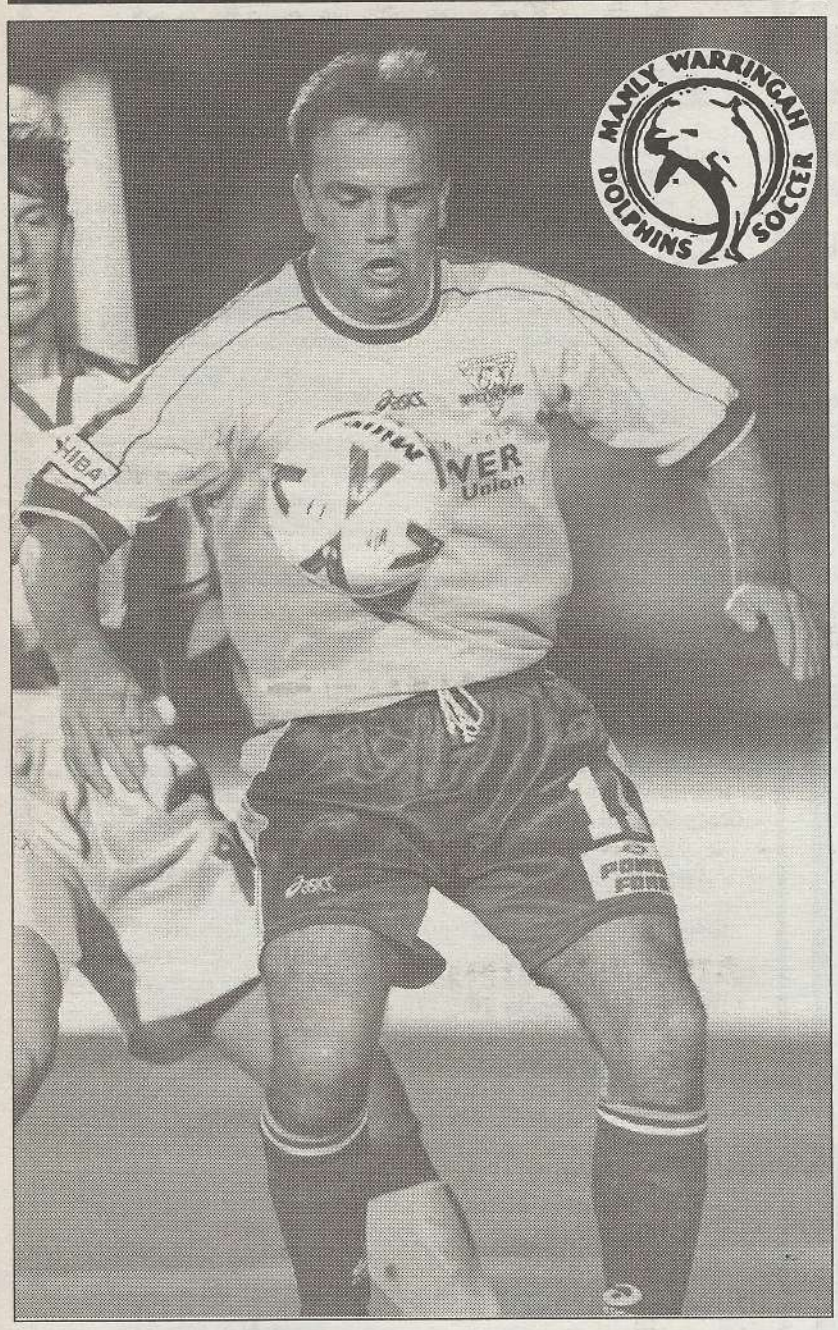
Winter Super League

VALENTINE SPORTS PARK
235-257 Meurants Lane, Glenwood 2768 ● Phone (02) 9629 1800

FINALS SERIES

Dolphins knockout Hill

Manly Warringah Dolphins	3
Dulwich Hill	0



Steve Berry: Seen here in Parramatta Power's colours scored the Dolphins' second goal against Dulwich Hill.

The Manly Warringah Dolphins have earned the chance to play-off for a Grand Final berth after doing enough to overcome a slightly out-of-sorts Dulwich Hill, by 3-0 at Fraser Park on Saturday afternoon.

It wasn't a classic encounter, both teams not showing their usual fluency, but the Dolphins shaded the match and put together their passing game a little better than their opponents.

Mark Beldham's 35th minute tap in setting up a 1-0 half time lead, following a fumbled Phil Moss free kick.

Steve Berry's header and then former Manchester United junior, Jonathon Mitten's swivel and hit through a forest of players finished off Dulwich Hill, the strikes coming in the 60th and 67th minutes respectively.

Manly Warringah advance to take on the loser of the Major Semi Final encounter, the Fairfield Bulls.

Lions clinch Grand Final berth

Bankstown City Lions	1
Fairfield Bulls	0

The Bankstown City Lions booked their Grand Final spot, thanks to a 103-minute winner from Lions substitute Goce Trposki in slippery and testing conditions at Gabbie Stadium.

The Lions broke the 90-minute stalemate, when deep into the first half of extra time, Trposki pounced on a loose ball to keep composed and send the Premiers into the Grand Final.

When Richard Luksic sent in a high ball into the penalty area, Trposki reacted the quickest after the ball had been contested in the air by Mikuletic and a band of Lions, to control the rebound and side foot his shot from some six-yards.

This incident sparked a cavalcade of emotion as Trposki was swarmed by joyous team-mates.

The Bulls on the other hand were livid that the goal stood claiming the ball had been handled by one of the Bankstown players en-route to goal.

Claudo Canosa: Bankstown City's coach masterminded his team to the Grand Final

SCOREBOARD

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Dulwich Hill 0
(Mark Beldham 35m, Steve Berry 60m, Jonathon Mitten 67m)

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

Bankstown City Lions 1 Fairfield Bulls 0
(Goce Trposki 103m)

Winter Super League

www.soccernsw.com.au

PRELIMINARY FINAL
Sunday 2nd September
St George Stadium (Rockdale)
1st-Grade: Fairfield Bulls v Manly Warringah Dolphins, 3.00pm
Under-21: Fairfield Bulls v Manly Warringah Dolphins, 12.30pm
Under-18: Macarthur Rams v Bankstown City Lions, 10.30am

NSW Winter Super League Grand Final
Sunday 9th of September
Melita Stadium (South Granville), (Kick-off times TBA)
1st-Grade: Bankstown City Lions v Fairfield Bulls or Manly Warringah Dolphins
Under-21: Macarthur Rams v Fairfield Bulls or Manly Warringah Dolphins
Under-18: Manly Warringah Dolphins v Macarthur Rams or Bankstown City Lions

Catch up with all the latest news on the Winter Super League and other NSW Soccer news on our website:

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WORLD

Madrid unhappy with Roma showdown

Real Madrid chief Jorge Valdano hit out at the UEFA seedings which saw the Spanish champions grouped with their Italian counterparts AS Roma in the opening group phase of the Champions League.

"There are two great championships in Europe, those of Italy and Spain, and the draw has put the champions of these two countries together," lamented the former Real Madrid player to reporters last week.

"I don't think we can talk about this being a lucky draw."

The pairing means Roma coach Fabio Capello will stand on the touchline at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium for the first time since his acrimonious resignation as Real Madrid coach at the end of the 1996-97 season, after leading them to the Spanish league title.

In the same group as the eight-times European champions and Roma are Russia's Lokomotiv Moscow and Belgian champions Anderlecht.

"I can honestly say I don't know much about Lokomotiv. We shall have to go away and study them," added Argentine Valdano, the club's director general.

"But Anderlecht are respectable opponents. We faced them last year and beat them at home before losing away."

However, Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas, the man who could be under fire from the likes of Roma's Gabriel Batistuta, seemed less worried than his boss about the draw.

"I think we will qualify and if we finish first, so much the better," said the 20 year-old Spanish international.

"As for Capello, I wasn't coached by him when he was here so I don't have any particular fear of him.

Nor do I have any grudges, although I suppose it might be different with some of my team mates.

"They probably think about things differently and this match could be special for them. For me, the great thing about this draw is that I have the chance to play in Rome's Olympic stadium."

Capello, a noted disciplinarian, had his departure from the Spanish capital hastened by public clashes with several Real Madrid players, including the club's current captain Fernando Hierro.

ASIAN W-CUP QUALIFYING STANDINGS

LATEST RESULTS

China 3 UAE 0, Iraq 4 Thailand 0, Saudi Arabia 1 Bahrain 1, Bahrain 2 Iraq 0, Qatar 0 Oman 0, United Arab Emirates 4 Uzbekistan 1.

REMAINING GAMES

31/08/01: ..... Saudi Arabia v Iraq
01/09/01: ..... Thailand v Iran
06/09/01: ..... Bahrain v Thailand
07/09/01: ..... Iraq v Iran
..... Qatar v China
08/09/01: ..... Uzbekistan v Oman
14/09/01: ..... Iran v Bahrain
..... Oman v UAE
15/09/01: ..... Thailand v Saudi Arabia
..... China v Uzbekistan
21/09/01: ..... Bahrain v Saudi Arabia
..... Oman v Qatar
22/09/01: ..... Thailand v Iraq
..... Uzbekistan v UAE
27/09/01: ..... UAE v China
28/09/01: ..... Iraq v Bahrain
..... Saudi Arabia v Iran
..... Qatar v Uzbekistan
04/10/01: ..... Qatar v UAE
05/10/01: ..... Iran v Thailand
..... Iraq v Saudi Arabia
07/10/01: ..... China v Oman
12/10/01: ..... Iran v Iraq
13/10/01: ..... Thailand v Bahrain
..... Oman v Uzbekistan
..... China v Qatar
19/10/01: ..... Bahrain v Iran
..... Saudi Arabia v Thailand
..... UAE v Oman
29/10/01: ..... Uzbekistan v China

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**4**
Iraq	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Saudi Arabia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Thailand	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**3**
China	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Oman	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Qatar	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	0	1	4	0

***Winners of Groups A and B qualify for the World Cup finals in South Korea/Japan.**
***Runners-up in Groups A and B play-off on a home-and-away basis, with the winner qualifying to play a runner-up from the Europe zone.**

Sinisa Mihajlovic of Lazio (left) celebrates with teammate Hernan Crespo after the latter scored during the second leg qualifying game of the Champion's league against FC Copenhagen last week.

Kahn leads Germany against England

The German squad for 2002 World Cup Group Nine qualifier with England in Munich on September 1 is as follows:

Goalkeepers: Oliver Kahn, Jens Lehmannn

Defenders: Frank Baumann , Sebastian Kehl, Thomas Linke, Jens Nowotny, Marko Rehmer, Christian Worns, Christian Ziege

Midfielders: Gerald Asamoah, Michael Ballack, Jorg Bohme, Sebastian Deisler, Dietmar Hamann, Lars Ricken, Mehmet Scholl

Forwards: Oliver Bierhoff, Carsten Jancker Miroslav Klose, Oliver Neuville, Alexander Zickler

2001 Champions League Fixtures

MATCH DAY ONE
(Tuesday, September 11)

GROUP A: AS Roma (Ita) v Real Madrid (Spa)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) v Anderlecht (Bel)
GROUP B: Liverpool (Eng) v Boavista Porto (Por)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
GROUP C: Shalke O4 (Ger) v Panathinaikos (Gre)
Real Mallorca (Spa) v Arsenal (Eng)
GROUP D: Nantes (Fra) v PSV Eindhoven (Ned)
Galatasaray (Tur) v Lazio (Ita)

(Wednesday, September 12)
GROUP E: Celtic (Sco) v Rosenborg (Nor)
FC Porto (Por) v Juventus (Ita)
GROUP F: Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Fenerbahce (Tkm)
Barcelona (Spa) v Lyon (Fra)
GROUP G: Lille (Fra) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
Olympiakos (Gre) v Manchester United (Eng)
GROUP H: Sparta Prague (Cze) v Spartak Moscow (Rus)
Feyenoord (Ned) v Bayern Munich (Ger)

MATCH DAY TWO
(Tuesday, September 18)
Group E: Juventus (Ita) v Celtic (Sco)
Rosenborg (Nor) v FC Porto (Por)
Group F: Lyon (Fra) v Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
Fenerbahce (Tur) v Barcelona (Spa)
Group G: Manchester United (Eng) v Lille (Fra)
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) v Olympiakos (Gre)
Group H: Bayern Munich (Ger) v Sparta Prague (Cze)
Spartak Moscow (Rus) v Feyenoord (Ned)

(Wednesday, September 19)
Group A: Anderlecht (Bel) v AS Roma (Ita)
Real Madrid (Spa) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
Group B: Borussia Dortmund (Ger) v Liverpool (Eng)
Boavista Porto (Por) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
Group C: Arsenal (Eng) v Schalke 04 (Ger)
Panathinaikos (Gre) v Real Mallorca (Spa)
Group D: Lazio (Ita) v Nantes (Fra)
PSV Eindhoven (Ned) v Galatasaray (Tur)

MATCH DAY THREE
(Tuesday, September 25)
Group E: Rosenborg (Nor) v Juventus (Ita)
Celtic (Sco) v FC Porto (Ita)
Group F: Fenerbahce (Tur) v Lyon (Fra)
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Barcelona (Spa)
Group G: Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) v Manchester United (Eng)
Lille (Fra) v Olympiakos (Gre)
Group H: Spartak Moscow (Rus) v Bayern Munich (Ger)
Sparta Prague (Cze) v Feyenoord (Ned)

(Wednesday, September 26)
Group A: Real Madrid (Spa) v Anderlecht (Bel)
AS Roma (Ita) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
Group B: Boavista Porto (Por) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
Liverpool (Eng) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
Group C: Panathinaikos (Gre) v Arsenal (Eng)
Schalke 04 (Ger) v Real Mallorca (Spa)
Group D: PSV Eindhoven (Ned) v Lazio (Ita)
Nantes (Fra) v Galatasaray (Tur)

MATCH DAY FOUR
(Tuesday, October 16)
Group A: Anderlecht (Bel) v Real Madrid (Spa)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) v AS Roma (Ita)
Group B: Borussia Dortmund (Ger) v Boavista Porto (Por)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) v Liverpool (Eng)
Group C: Arsenal (Eng) v Panathinaikos (Gre)
Real Mallorca (Spa) v Schalke 04 (Ger)
Group D: Lazio (Ita) v PSV Eindhoven (Ned)
Galatasaray (Tur) v Nantes (Fra)

(Wednesday, October 17)
Group E: Juventus (Ita) v Rosenborg (Nor)
FC Porto (Por) v Celtic (Sco)
Group F: Lyon (Fra) v Fenerbahce (Tur)
Barcelona (Spa) v Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
Group G: Man. United (Eng) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
Olympiakos (Gre) v Lille (Fra)
Group H: Bayern Munich (Ger) v Spartak Moscow (Rus)
Feyenoord (Ned) v Sparta Prague (Cze)

MATCH DAY FIVE
(Tuesday, October 23)
Group E: Rosenborg (Nor) v Celtic Glasgow (Sco)
Juventus Turin (Ita) v FC Porto (Por)
Group F: Fenerbahce (Tur) v Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
Lyon (Fra) v Barcelona (Spa)
Group G: Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) v Lille (Fra)
Manchester United (Eng) v Olympiakos (Gre)
Group H: Spartak Moscow (Rus) v Sparta Prague (Cze)
Bayern Munich (Ger) v Feyenoord (Ned)

(Wednesday, October 24)
Group A: Real Madrid (Spa) v AS Roma (Ita)
Anderlecht (Bel) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus)
Group B: Boavista Porto (Por) v Liverpool (Eng)
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)
Group C: Panathinaikos (Gre) v Schalke 04 (Ger)
Arsenal (Eng) v Real Mallorca (Spa)
Group D: PSV Eindhoven (Ned) v Nantes (Fra)
Lazio (Ita) v Galatasaray (Tur)

MATCH DAY SIX
(Tuesday, October 30)
Group A: AS Roma (Ita) v Anderlecht (Ned)
Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) v Real Madrid (Spa)
Group B: Liverpool (Eng) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) v Boavista Porto (Por)
Group C: Schalke 04 (Ger) v Arsenal (Eng)
Real Mallorca (Spa) v Panathinaikos (Gre)
Group D: Nantes (Fra) v Lazio (Ita)
Galatasaray (Tur) v PSV Eindhoven (Ned)

(Wednesday, October 31)
Group E: Celtic (Sco) v Juventus (Ita)
FC Porto (Por) v Rosenborg (Nor)
Group F: Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Lyon (Fra)
Barcelona (Spa) v Fenerbahce (Tur)
Group G: Lille (Fra) v Manchester United (Eng)
Olympiakos (Gre) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
Group H: Sparta Prague (Cze) v Bayern Munich (Ger)
Feyenoord (Ned) v Spartak Moscow (Rus)

Top two teams from each group advance to second phase.

Top Ten Transfers in Spain

1. Zinedine Zidane	Juventus to Real Madrid	($65.8 millionUS)
2. Javier Saviola	River Plate to Barcelona	($25.9 millionUS)
3. Geovanni	Cruzeiro to Barcelona	($18.7 millionUS)
4. Sergio Gonzalez	Espanyol to Deportivo La Coruna	($14.8 millionUS)
5. Philippe Christanval	Monaco to Barcelona	($14.7 millionUS)
6. Gonzalo De los Santos	Malaga to Valencia	($13.1 millionUS)
7. Fabio Rochemback	Porto Alegre to Barcelona	($12.8 millionUS)
8. Goran Drulic	Red Star Belgrade to Real Zaragoza	($10 millionUS)
9. Salva Ballesta	Atletico Madrid to Valencia	($9.5 millionUS)
10. Francisco Rufete	Malaga to Valencia	($7.9 millionUS)

Houllier wants more after Liverpool down Bayern

Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier believes his players can add to their historic haul of five trophies in a year if they maintain their improvement.

Houllier paid tribute to his side after Uefa Cup holders Liverpool beat Champions League winners Bayern Munich 3-2 in Monaco on Friday night, to claim the European Super Cup.

Liverpool added the trophy to the UEFA Cup, FA Cup, Worthington Cup and Charity Shield with goals from John Arne Riise and England duo Emile Heskey and Michael Owen.

"The players deserve the credit, not the manager - especially in this heat," said Houllier. "They had a lot to cope with.

"Not only did players like Michael and Emile have pace but they had a lot of ability, we knew that.

"You have to take into account Bayern Munich got into the Champions League final two seasons ago and they won it last season.

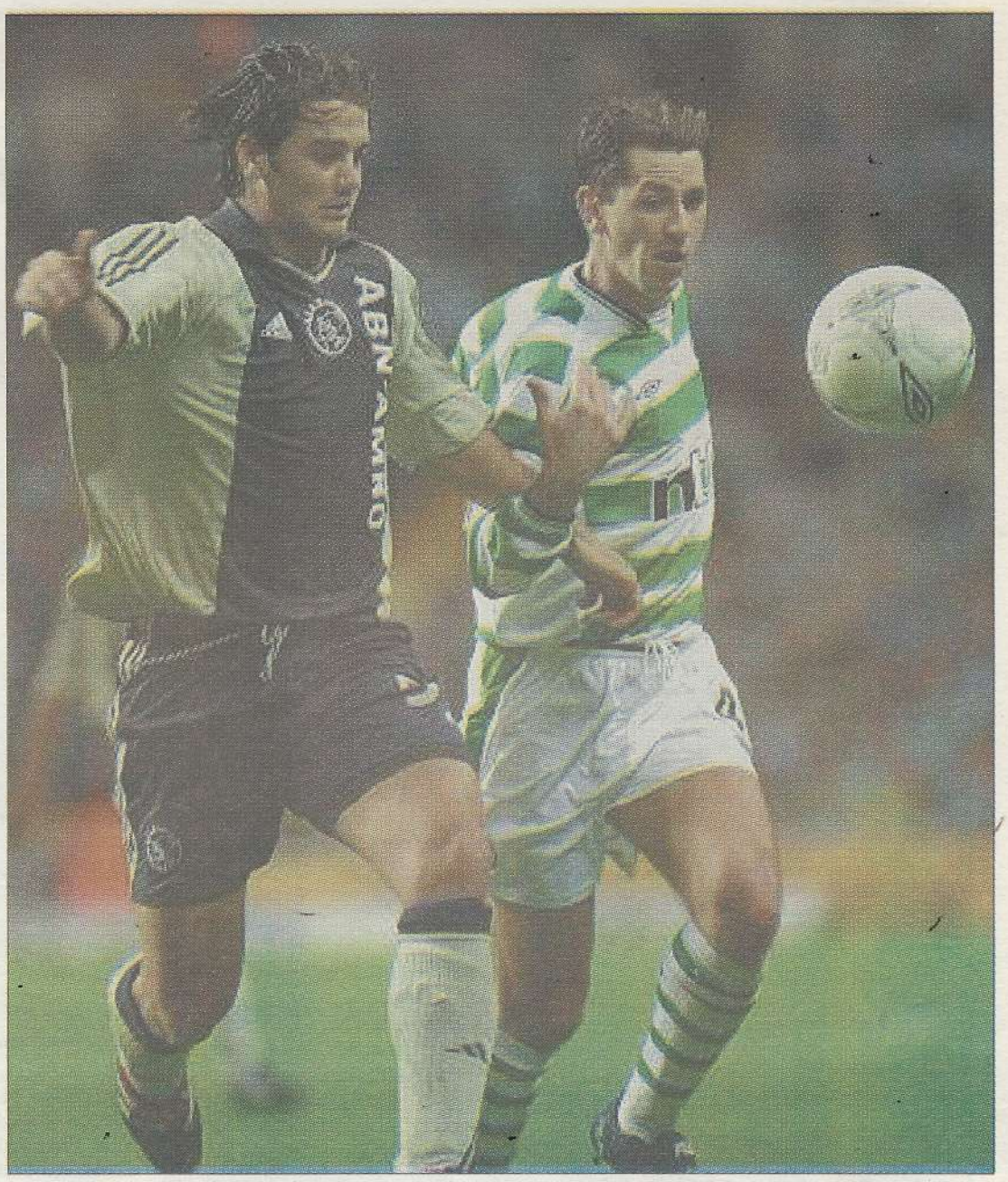
"The message is that we have a team that when they want something, they can achieve things, especially with the unity and trust we have among each other here.

"I am pleased to say that this is the fifth trophy in a few months. The players are very proud of that. I am also pleased for our fans because they deserve something special."

Heskey admitted Liverpool allowed Bayern to get back into the game after going three goals ahead.

Goals from Hasan Salihamidzic and Carsten Jancker pulled it back to 3-2 but the Reds held on.

"At 3-0 up we did take our foot off the pedal and maybe we should not have," said the England striker.



Celtic's Jackie McNamara, (right) holds off Ajax's Christian Chivu during their Champions League, qualifying round game at Celtic Park, Glasgow, last week.

MARADONA'S SON IN ITALIAN U/17 SQUAD

The 14-year-old son of legendary Argentinian player Diego Maradona has been called up for the Italian under-17 side, ANSA news agency reported over the weekend.

The youngster, like his father named Diego Armando Maradona, will only turn 15 next month but has been called up by under-17 coach Antonio Rocca for a training camp this weekend.

Maradona junior is in the youth team at Napoli - the club his father led to two Italian league titles during his glorious career.

He has never met his father — he was conceived after a whirlwind romance between the Argentinian and Cristiana Sinagra who has raised the boy herself. It was only in 1993 that a court ruled that Diego was indeed the son of Maradona senior.

"It's a dream, I can't believe it," said Maradona junior on learning of his call-up in remarks reported to ANSA by his mother. "It's the best moment of my life."

His mother also claims her son does not believe his talent for the beautiful game has anything to do with his famous father. She said her son told her: "I am me. All my success is down to me alone and to the assistance of my coaches."

Born on September 20, 1986 in a Naples clinic the youngster does owe at least some of his football heritage to his absentee father. As well as supporting Napoli he never misses a televised match when the Argentinian national team is playing.

COLOMBIAN STAR FACES JAIL TERM

Colombian international striker Jairo Castillo faces up to six years in jail for manslaughter after a car accident that resulted in the deaths of two sisters who were passengers in his vehicle, it was reported last week.

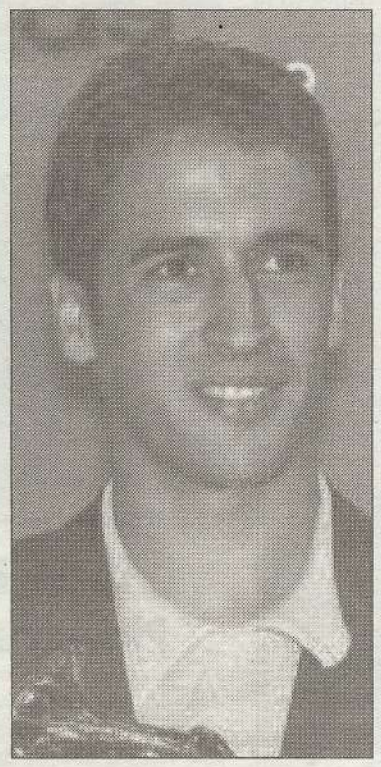
The Cali attorney general has remanded Castillo in custody after the 23-year-old's car crashed into two lamp posts after allegedly running a red light in the early hours of Sunday, last week.

If it is proved that he was over the allowable alcohol limit, he could face a jail sentence of two to six years jail for manslaughter.

Castillo recently signed for Italian second division side Genoa from Argentine outfit Velez Sarsfield. He was also a key member of the Colombian national side that won the Copa America to scenes of national celebration in July.

Claudia Ojeda, 22, died at the scene of the accident and leaves behind a four-year-old child. Her 21-year-old sister Katerine died several hours later while undergoing surgery. The three other passengers and Castillo all escaped with minor injuries.

Castillo was involved in another accident in his home town of Tumaco 870km south of Bogota in January 1998 and was subsequently ordered to pay the medical costs of a motorcyclist who lost a leg.



Raul: Supercup hat-trick.

Raul hat-trick fetches Madrid Super Cup

Spanish international Raul hit a stunning hat-trick as Real Madrid beat Real Zaragoza 3-0 to clinch the Spanish Super Cup for the sixth time in their history last Wednesday.

However, it took the league champions until the 73rd minute to break down a resolute Zaragoza defence and the goals arrived, ironically, after Zinedine Zidane was substituted late in the game.

The French star had orchestrated most of his team's best moves before he was replaced by Savio, but it was Portugal international Luis Figo who was to play the crucial role in his side's triumph.

Figo set up the first goal when his right wing corner was met by Fernando Hierro. The defender's flick was met by Raul who scored from close range.

That goal came in the 73rd minute and was followed eight minutes later by the second.

This time Figo drifted down the right flank. His cross was met by Raul who made no mistake.

The third goal arrived with just two minutes left. Santiago Solari hit a thunderous effort from just inside the penalty area which Zaragoza goalkeeper Cesar Lainez failed to hold.

The ball bounced back invitingly into the path of Raul who gratefully accepted his opportunity.

In the first leg the previous Sunday, Brazilian Flavio Conceicao had given Madrid a 54th-minute lead before Zaragoza levelled the scores on the night through a Yordi header with 11 minutes left.

GREEKS DENY JOINT EURO CUP BID WITH TURKEY

The Greek football federation (HFF) announced last week it had not signed an agreement with its Turkish counterparts to bid for the joint organisation of the 2008 European championships.

The HFF announcement said that contrary to press reports, it has only agreed with the Turkish federation to meet in Istanbul August 27 and 28 to discuss the candidacy proposal and has not already inked an agreement.

"The only signature made was that of setting up an agenda for the talks in Turkey next week," the HFF announcement said.

The announcement said that technical matters would be discussed in Istanbul by the two neighbouring federations with a view to coming up with a joint bid for the event.

It was earlier reported that both countries had signed a joint letter of agreement to bid for the organisation of the event, according to the Turkish Football Federation.

"Our committees met in Greece and we have signed a letter of intention for the bid," TFF vice-president Ata Aksu said after returning from Athens.

"Euro 2008 will be jointly organised by Greece and Turkey," he said.

Greece and Turkey will have to beat a joint bid by Austria and Switzerland for the tournament. Scotland is also planning to run for the competition.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

This week we will focus on all the other Serie A clubs as Round 1 kicked off on the weekend.

Atalanta

Their major buys were Taibi, the former Man Utd custodian, from Reggina as goalkeeper and Comandini from AC Milan as striker. Their two major losses are striker Ventola to Inter and midfielder Christian Zenoni to Juventus.

Giorgio Vavassori will once again be coach and the team will struggle to avoid relegation.

Bologna

The team is basically the same as last year but the loss of midfielder Maresca to Juventus will impact on them. Striker Bellucci from Napoli should be interesting to watch as he partners the veteran Signori up front.

Francesco Guidolin is once again coach and the team should finish in mid table.

Brescia

Already this team is embroiled in controversy. Last week's 1-1 draw at home to Paris St Germain was not enough to earn them a place in the UEFA Cup.

Coach Carlo Mazzone has resigned but things may be cleared up between himself and the club. Robbie Baggio, Italy's greatest ever player, led the club superbly last year into equal 7th place.

Baggio will be motivated this year to play well to capture the eye of national boss, Giovanni Trapattoni, and therefore the team should finish somewhere in mid table. However, the current mess with the coach needs to be sorted out.

Chievo Verona

This newly promoted team is in its first ever season in the Serie A. A no-name team and a small budget will see this little team well and truly out of its depth. Relegation specials.

Fiorentina

A turbulent off-season and major financial worries will affect the team. Gone are Rui Costa (AC Milan) and goalkeeper Toldo (Inter) and so are their hopes.

Roberto Mancini is once again coach but they will struggle all year and finish just out of the relegation zone.

Lecce

Survived the drop last year but may not be so lucky this year. Alberto Cavasin is once again in charge and he is good coach. However, the ordinary team assembled will struggle all year and be dropped to the Serie B.

Perugia

Did well last year under the guidance of rookie coach Serse Cosmi. The charismatic character is back again at the helm - baseball cap and all.

They have bought a plethora of foreigners but lost their best player, defender Materazzi, to Inter.

However, they still have Italian international midfielder Liverani in their team. They should comfortably avoid the drop.

Piacenza

Back in the Serie A but the question is for how long? Their biggest buys are striker Hubner from Brescia and midfielders Matuzalem from Napoli and Di Francesco from Roma.

Walter Novellino is once again the coach and he has plenty of Serie A experience. They will struggle but should narrowly avoid relegation.

Torino

Everyone's favourite club. Italian football history will always reserve a special place for Torino. However, sentiment and nostalgia count for nothing in the cruel world of Serie A football.

They have lost some of their good players and the inexperienced Camolese is once again their coach. They will just avoid relegation.

Udinese

Midfielders Fiore and Giannichedda have both gone to Lazio and several foreigners have been bought to bolster their squad.

Roy Hodgson is back in the Serie A as coach but the team will struggle. Hodgson will be lucky to see out the season and they will finish in the bottom half of the table.

Venezia

They are back in the Serie A but will be relegated straight back. Their greatest strength is fine young coach, Cesare Prandelli, once again at the helm but without the players even he can't save them.

Verona

Stayed in the Serie A last year by the skin of their teeth. A play-off with Reggina was enough to see them remain. With cross-town rivals Chievo in the Serie A, it should make for an interesting derby.

Italian Serie A

Juventus 4 Venezia 0

Juventus underlined their status as favourites for the 2001-2 Italian first division title, trouncing newly-promoted Venezia 4-0 in Turin on day one of the season.

French striker David Trezeguet scored twice early on - once with a header, once with a volley.

Alessandro Del Piero then notched two more - his first from a freekick - as Juve gave coach Marcello Lippi the perfect start in his second stint in charge of the Turin club.

"We made a great start," said Lippi. "It was a good first-half - a nice way to kick things off."

Inter Milan 4 Perugia 1

Inter Milan's Argentinian coach Hector Cuper was smiling at the San Siro after his team scored a convincing opening day victory over Perugia.

Sierra Leonian forward Mohamed Kallon and Christian Vieri bagged a brace apiece.

Debutant Kallon headed Inter in front and added a second on the stroke of half-time.

Greek forward Zisis Vryzas pulled one back for Perugia but Vieri bagged two in injury time, the first from the penalty spot after an incident which led to the sending off of Perugia's Fabio Grosso.

"Kallon did very well," said Cuper. "But I was very pleased with the way we were organised. We were very disciplined."

Chievo 2 Fiorentina 0

Chievo scored an unlikely opening round victory over Fiorentina in Florence.

Udinese midfielder, Alberto (left) attempts to go past a Torino defender on Sunday during their season-opening clash.

Midfielder Simone Perrotta, who was born in England, scored the historic first goal before Massimo Marazzina doubled the lead for Chievo who represent a district in Verona with only 2900 inhabitants.

AC Milan 2 Brescia 2

At Brescia, Albanian striker Igli Tare notched two first-half goals for the hosts to complete a miserable first 45 minutes for AC Milan's new Turkish coach Fatih Terim who had already seen his major close-season signing — Portuguese playmaker Manuel Rui Costa — carried off to hospital.

Rui Costa will be absent for three weeks after dislocating his elbow and breaking his hand.

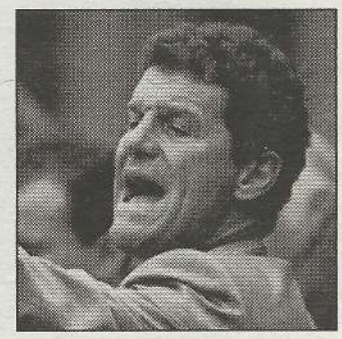
But there was relief for Terim after the break.

Cristian Brocchi pulled one back before prolific Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko equalised from the penalty spot.

AS Roma 1 Verona 1

Verona dominated the early stages against Roma but were stunned when Argentinian defender Walter Samuel headed the champions in front in first half injury time.

Massimo Oddo levelled in the second period with a cross-shot to score an impressive draw against their much fancied opponents.



Fabio Capello: Roma coach.

Lazio 1 Piacenza 1

Argentinian striker Claudio Lopez gave Lazio a second-half lead against newly-promoted Piacenza who levelled through Brazilian Da Silva Matuzalem but could not find the winner their enterprising play deserved.

"We need more tranquillity and calm in our defence," said Lazio coach Dino Zoff.

Torino 2 Udinese 2

Promoted Torino struck early taking a 2-0 lead at Udinese but had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Defender Fabio Galante and Swedish international Yksel Osmanovski scored for the visitors before Roberto Muzzi pulled one back and then new signing Carlos Pavon, from Honduras, restored parity for Udinese.

Parma 1 Lecce 1

The first goal of the day came at Lecce where Uruguayan striker Javier Ernesto Chevanton put the southerners ahead after a blunder by Parma's French goalkeeper Sebastien Frey who released the ball as he prepared to punt it unaware that Chevanton was lurking behind him.

Marco Di Vaio equalised for Parma to make it 1-1, which was the way it ended after Lecce's Croatian forward Davor Vugrinec missed a late penalty.

Bologna 1 Atalanta 0

Bologna were the more enterprising side and after 19 minutes Signori put them in front with a fine freekick, outfoxing Atalanta's former Manchester United goalkeeper Massimo Taibi at his near post with his trusty left foot.

Atalanta, one of the surprise packages of last season, looked sluggish against Bologna who fully deserved their victory.

SERIE A LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**3**
Inter Milan	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Chievo	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Bologna	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Brescia	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
AC Milan	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Torino	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Udinese	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Lazio	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lecce	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Parma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Piacenza	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
AS Roma	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Verona	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Perugia	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Atalanta	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Fiorentina	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Venezia	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

WORLD

English Premiership

ARSENAL thrashed struggling Leicester 4-0 in a bad-tempered match at Highbury on Saturday which saw two players sent off and put Leicester manager Peter Taylor's job further in peril.

Swedish international Fredrik Ljungberg put Arsenal 1-0 up and French international Sylvain Wiltord scored a second in the 28th minute.Another Frenchman, Thierry Henry, added the third goal with a deflected shot after Leicester's Dennis Wise and Patrick Vieira of Arsenal were sent off following a second-half flare-up.

Nigerian Nwanko Kanu slotted home the fourth goal in the final minute.

Taylor, a former England assistant coach, was already under pressure after Leicester were beaten 5-0 by Bolton on the opening day of the season - his side were bottom of the Premiership after this defeat.

EVERTON momentarily found themselves in an unaccustomed position at the top of the Premiership on Saturday, after beating Middlesbrough 2-0 at Goodison Park, giving them seven points out of nine this season.

Kevin Campbell scored first with a header and Scott Gemmill rifled home the second in the second half to increase the worries for new 'Boro manager Steve McClaren.

Everton escaped relegation by just six points last season so manager Walter Smith was understandably satisfied with his team's start.

"We're delighted to have started this way and it's great to be up here instead of the other end of the table," said Smith.

CHELSEA'S Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink scored the first Premiership goal at Southampton's new 32,000-capacity St Mary's Stadium and Mario Stanic scored a second to underline the Londoners' title aspirations with a 2-0 win.

Chelsea's three points were only clouded by minor injuries to new signings Emmanuel Petit and Boudewijn Zenden.

NEWLY-promoted Blackburn won their first match of the season, beating Tottenham 2-1 through a seventh minute Alan Mahon goal, his first for the club since joining from Sporting Lisbon, and Damien Duff secured the three points in the 71st minute.

Christian Ziege pulled a goal back for Tottenham, but Glenn Hoddle's team are without a win this season.

LEEDS were second in the Premiership on goal difference, after playing out a tense goalless draw with injury-depleted West Ham at Upton Park.

West Ham's teenaged star Joe Cole put the ball in the back of the Leeds net after the break, but the goal was disallowed as Svetoslav Todorov was ruled to have fouled goalkeeper Nigel Martyn.

Aussie striker Mark Viduka spurned a number of clear cut chances for the visitors in the first-half and enigmatic Italian Paolo Paolo di Canio almost brought West Ham the winner near the end of the game, but old boy Rio Ferdinand managed to clear over the bar.

The result should go someway to silencing Hammers boss Glenn Roeder's critics

CHARLTON upset Ipswich at Portman Road as Kevin Lisbie scored in the 85th minute for a 1-0 win in a match in which Ipswich's leading scorer last season, Marcus Stewart, was substituted after being ineffective.

Charlton left it late to snatch a surprise 1-0 victory with Kevin Lisbie's stunning strike.

Lisbie's dipping, vicious volley - an early contender for goal of the season - settled things after the injury hit visitors had frustrated Ipswich's usual fluency.

The 22-year-old, on for John Solako, gave manager Alan Curbishley his first win of the season.

FULHAM, First Division champions last season, and Derby County also ended goalless.

West Ham's Joe Cole (left) keeps Leeds United's Lee Bowyer at a distance during their English Premiership game at West Ham's Upton Park, London.

Strike-sensation. Louis Saha was at last succesfully checked in this game, thus denying him the chance to score in three straight games.

Dynamic duo Saha and Barry Hayles could do nothing to break the deadlock although an unmarked Hayles could have given Fulham a first minute lead.

A Fabrizio Ravanelli-less Derby will be pleased with a point against the Cottagers and were also missing goalkeeper Mart Poom and Argentinean defender Horacio Carbonari.

AN own goal by Turkish international defender Ozalan Alpay in stoppage time salvaged a point for Manchester United as the English champions were held to a 1-1 draw at Aston Villa on Sunday.

Villa took the lead after four minutes thanks to Darius Vassell's neat strike and after former United legend Peter Schmeichel pulled off a miraculous save in the closing stages of normal time to deny United captain Roy Keane, the visitors drew level.

In the second minute of time added on, Alpay, under pressure from Norway international Ronny Johnsen, headed a Ryan Giggs corner into his own net to give United a share of the spoils.

HONOURS were even as Newcastle were held to a 1-1 draw at home to north east rivals Sunderland.

Kevin Phillips gave the visitors the lead 11 minutes before the break only for Craig Bellamy to cancel out his strike just before half time.

The game marked the return of former England striker Alan Shearer who had been sidelined since March.

Arsenal's Thierry Henry (left) fends off a challenge from an unidentified Leicester City player during their match at Highbury in London. Arsenal won the match 4-0.

RESULTS & LADDER

Arsenal 4 Leicester 0, Blackburn 2 Tottenham 1, Everton 2 Middlesbrough 0, Fulham 0 Derby 0, Ipswich 0 Charlton 1, Southampton 0 Chelsea 2, West Ham 0 Leeds 0, Aston Villa 1 Manchester United 1, Newcastle United 1 Sunderland 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Leeds United	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Arsenal	3	2	0	1	9	2	6
Bolton	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Manchester United	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Chelsea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Fulham	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Blackburn	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Derby County	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Sunderland	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Liverpool	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Ipswich Town	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Charlton Athletic	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Newcastle	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Aston Villa	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Tottenham	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
West Ham	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Southampton	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Middlesbrough	3	0	0	3	0	7	0
Leicester	2	0	0	2	0	9	0

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until September 22)

FIFA founded 1904

1	France	812	69	Iraq	518	137	Burundi	305
2	Brazil	808	70	Liberia	514	138	Yemen	295
3	Argentina	783	71	Congo DR	512	139	Korea DPR	294
4	Italy	733	72	Georgia	510	140	Rwanda	285
5	Germany	725	73=	Algeria	507	141	Myanmar	276
6	Colombia	723	73=	Cyprus	507	142	Surinam	268
7	Czech Rep.	716	75	Burkina Faso	506	142	Tajikistan	268
7	Spain	716	76	Kuwait	505	144	Luxemburg	260
9	Portugal	714	77	Cuba	504	145	Andorra	256
10	Netherlands	705	78	Bosnia-Herz	502	146	Ethiopia	255
11	Paraguay	703	79	Bolivia	501	147=	Bangladesh	253
12	Mexico	702	80	Estonia	492	147=	Palestine	253
13	Yugoslavia	691	81=	Canada	489	149	Maldives	248
14	Romania	687	81=	Macedonia FYR	489	150	Sri Lanka	246
15	England	675	83	Haiti	481	151	Liechtenstein	244
16	United States	670	84	New Zealand	477	152=	Antigua and Bar	232
17	Croatia	666	85	El Salvador	475	152=	Tanzania	232
18	Denmark	663	86	Albania	474	154	Botswana	230
19	Sweden	661	86=	Belarus	474	155	Benin	220
20	Russia	652	86=	Qatar	474	155	Nepal	220
21	Norway	648	89	Indonesia	471	157	Gambia	215
22	Tunisia	646	90	Gabon	468	158	Dominica	214
23	Honduras	643	91	Oman	461	159	San Marino	213
24	Uruguay	642	92	Congo	458	160	Cayman Islands	207
25	Ireland Republic	638	93	Syria	454	161=	Bermuda	206
25	Poland	638	94=	Latvia	450	161=	Dominican Rep.	206
27	Japan	634	94=	Lithuania	450	163	Cape Verde Is.	204
28	South Africa	629	96	Armenia	449	164	British Virgin Is.	202
29	Morocco	624	97	Namibia	447	165	Kyrgyzstan	197
30	Belgium	622	98	Guinea	444	166	Laos	194
31	Costa Rica	621	99	Lebanon	443	167	Belize	187
32	Trinidad & Tobago	619	100	Jordan	440	168	Eritrea	184
33	Turkey	612	101	Vietnam SR	437	169	Vanuatu	182
34	Nigeria	610	102	Kenya	423	170	Chinese Taipei	181
35=	Chile	609	103	Moldova	422	171	Cambodia	179
35=	Saudi Arabia	609	104	Kazakhstan	421	172	Mauritania	167
37	Cameroon	608	105	Wales	415	173	Chad	162
38=	Egypt	602	106	Barbados	413	174	Samoa	158
38=	Scotland	602	107	Northern Ireland	411	175	Tonga	151
40	Slovakia	601	108	Singapore	407	176	Cook Islands	150
41=	Israel	596	109	Malaysia	405	177	Philippines	143
41=	Korea Republic	596	110	Venezuela	400	178	Guyana	142
41=	Peru	596	111	Panama	392	179	Netherlands Ant.	121
44	Slovenia	595	112	Mali	391	180	Central Afri.Rep.	119
45	Cote d' Ivoire	589	113	Uganda	387	181	Macao	114
46	Iran	585	114	Azerbaijan	384	182	Guinea-Bissau	111
47=	Ecuador	583	115=	Libya	380	183	Bahamas	110
47=	Ukraine	583	115=	Turkmenistan	380	184	Sao Tome e Principe	108
49=	Austria	581	117	Bahrain	379			
49=	Bulgaria	581	118	India	368	185	Pakistan	106
51	**AUSTRALIA**	578	119	Malawi	367	186	Aruba	101
52	Jamaica	576	120	Madagascar	366	187	Mongolia	94
53	Angola	558	121	Sudan	365	188	Niger	91
54	Hungary	557	122	Faroe Islands	364	189	Nicaragua	89
55=	Finland	552	123	Mozambique	350	190	Brunei Darussalam	86
55=	Greece	552	124	Fiji	349	191	Equatorial Guinea	85
55=	Iceland	552	125	Mauritius	341	192	Seychelles	77
58	Zambia	551	126	Tahiti	336	193	Djibouti	75
59	Ghana	550	127	Lesotho	331	194	Anguilla	65
60	Switzerland	549	128	St Vincent/Gr	330	195	PNG	59
61	Guatemala	546	129	St Kitts & Nevis	329	196	Puerto Rico	55
62	Thailand	543	130	St Lucia	327	197	Somalia	54
63	China PR	529	131	Swaziland	323	198	US Virgin Islands	48
63	UAE	529	132	Grenada	311	199	Guam	27
65	Zimbabwe	526	133	Malta	310	200	Turks & Caicos Is	21
66	Senegal	525	134=	Hong Kong	309	201	American Samoa	16
67	Uzbekistan	523	134=	Sierra Leone	309	202	Bhutan	14
68	Togo	522	134=	Solomon Islands	309	203	Montserrat	10

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

Barcelona's striker Javier Saviola, (right) in midfield action against Polish team Wisla Krakow, during last week's qualifying match for the Champions League.

Will Saviola be Barca's Joker in the pack?

Barcelona coach Carlos 'Charly' Rexach is a nervous man. Last season the Catalan soccer giants won absolutely nothing, for the second year in succession, and only just scraped into the Champions League on the last day.

More of the same will just not be good enough to keep Barcelona's 105,000 supporters' club members happy and Rexach knows that results will have to arrive quickly or else he will not be in the same job next May.

However, many pundits believe that the saviour of the club — and the coach — has come in the form of Argentine sharpshooter Javier Saviola, who was signed from River Plate.

Saviola is only 19 but already a senior international and was the top scorer in the Under-20 World Cup earlier this summer, which Argentina won.

He has already shown that a mature head lies on young shoulders, having had an impressive pre-season, despite the tragic distraction of his father's death, and has also shown he is unlikely to wilt under the off-the-field pressures that a 25.9 million dollar price tag brings with it.

"I have to say he's surprised me at how well he has dealt with it all," said Barcelona president Joan Gaspart last week.

"It has only been a few months since signing for a prestigious club like Barcelona, and for so much money, and after the death of his father."

There is every indication that Rexach will use Saviola a part of a three-pronged strike force - The Trident, as it has been dubbed by the media - that is intended to combine the talents of the young Argentine, 1999 World Player of the Year Rivaldo, and the Dutch international Patrick Kluivert within new 4-3-3 formation.

Carlos Rexach: Barca coach.

Last season Rivaldo scored 23 league goals, despite the debilitating effects of regular trans-Atlantic trips to fulfil his obligations to Brazil and a long-running wrangle with the club over his contract.

Kluivert added 17 goals and there were useful contributions from Spanish international Luis Enrique Martinez and Dutch midfielder Marc Overmars, who scored nine and eight goals respectively.

But, perhaps worryingly for Barcelona fans, Rexach still seems unsure of his tactics.

"If The Trident doesn't work then we will adopt another system," said Rexach. Goal scoring though should be the least of his worries.

The 57 league goals that the defence leaked last season was the worst tally in the top half of the Spanish first division.

Rexach, as part of a spending spree of more than 70 million dollars which brought six new players to the Nou Camp including Argentine international goalkeeper Roberto Bonano, signed French international defender Philippe Christanval and his Swedish counterpart Patrik Andersson to toughen things up.

Nevertheless, the back four is still looking short on understanding, if not individual skill.

"We have to get better, it is as simple as that," commented Rexach. His other concern will be keeping his players' egos in check, an issue that regularly spilled into the public domain last season.

"We can only have non-European Union players on the pitch this season and with players like Overmars, Geovanni, Saviola, and Rivaldo and Rochemback in our squad, it is almost inevitable that every week one of them will be on the bench. I can only put 11 men on the field," reflected Rexach.

For the first few months, there is no doubt that there will be few grumbles from the dressing room as all concerned toe the party line.

However, if Saviola fails to find his magic touch, or Barcelona make another premature departure from the Champions League, or they fail to make an impact on the domestic front again, it is possible that Rexach could be scanning the 'jobs vacant' columns in the newspapers during the Christmas holidays.

WORLD

SPANISH LIGA

BARCA WIN, MADRID LOSE ON DAY ONE

Patrick Kluivert broke his barren spell in impressive fashion by getting both of Barcelona's goals in their 2-1 away victory at newly-promoted Sevilla on Sunday.

However, in Seville, he refound his touch and was unstoppable.

His first strike came after 36 minutes when he connected with a pass from his compatriot Philip Cocu, which took a deflection off the Sevilla defender David Castedo.

Castedo was again in the thick of things three minutes into the second half, when he was controversially judged to have been bundled to the ground in the box by Barcelona's Brazilian defender Fabio Rochemback and Nico Olivera converted from the spot.

Kluivert produced an individual piece of brilliance to decide the game after 76 minutes.

"I think this shows that Barcelona will be a force to be reckoned with this season, although Sevilla worried us at times," commented Barcelonas Javier Saviola, who was signed from River Plate in his native Argentina for $25million during the summer.

Barcelona coach Charly Rexach surprisingly left the prodigious teenage striker on the bench but brought him on after 58 minutes and he was a constant threat during the time he was on the field.

German coach Jupp Heynckes took over at the helm of Athletic Bilbao at the start of the summer promising to revive the fortunes of the former Spanish soccer giants, and he made a promising start with a 3-1 away victory at local rivals Real Sociedad.

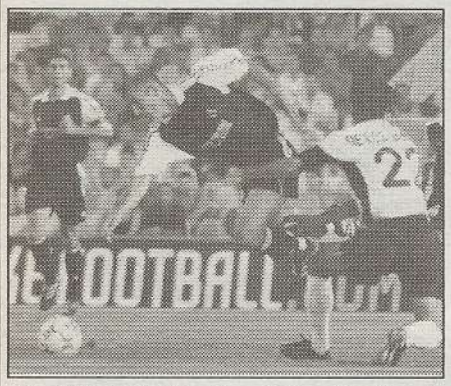
Urzaiz got goals at both ends of the match, after 15 and 81 minutes, but his efforts were slightly overshadowed by his team mate Tiko Martinez, who rifled home a stunning shot from the edge of the area on 75 minutes.

Deportivo La Coruna, second last season and the 1999-2001 champions, have the honour of being on top of the Spanish first division after the first week, after producing a second half blitz to inflict a 4-0 thrashing on Valladolid.

UEFA Cup campaigners Celta Vigo thrashed Osasuna 3-0 in Pamplona.

Headed goals from Catanha and Sergio Gonzalez put the visitors two up just before the hour before Jesuli Nieto sent the game beyond the home side's reach with a third on 72 minutes.

Jesuli slotted the ball home after a well-worked effort, which split the Osasuna defence, between himself and Celta's new Croation loan signing Zvonimir Boban.



Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane (centre) is fouled by Valencia's midfielder Gonzalo de los Santos during their match which Madrid lost 0-1.

Tenerife 0 Alaves 2,Real Sociedad 1 Athletic Bilbao 3, Osasuna 0 Celta Vigo 3, Real Mallorca 0 Las Palmas 3, Espanyol 2 Real Zaragoza 1, Deportivo La Coruna 4 Valladolid 0, Malaga 3 Real Betis 2, Rayo Vallecano 1 Villarreal 2, Sevilla 1 Barcelona 2, Valencia 1 Real Madrid 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. La Coruna	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
2. Celta Vigo	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
3. Las Palmas	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
4. Athletic Bilbao	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
5. Alaves	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
6. Malaga	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
7. Barcelona	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
8. Espanyol	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
9. Villarreal	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
10. Valencia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
11. Real Betis	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
12. Vallecano	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
13. Sevilla	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
14. Real Zaragoza	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
15. Real Madrid	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
16. Real Sociedad	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
17. Tenerife	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
18. Real Mallorca	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
19. Osasuna	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
20. Valladolid	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

FRENCH CHAMPIONNAT

Lyon midfielder, Steve Marlet, who scored against Troyes over the weekend.

CHAMPIONS NANTES ARE BOTTOM

Lens suffered their first setback of the French season Sunday after being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Lille.

A second-half goal from striker Lamine Sakho had looked enough to ensure the Blood and Golds their fifth straight win of the season.

The draw was enough to keep Lens at the top of the league with a one-point berth on second-place Lyon.

Lyon had temporarily been back to the top of the table Saturday as Steve Marlet once again illustrated why he is such a hot property.

Marlet, who was the subject of a $12.5 million bid from English Premiership side, Fulham just four days ago, opened the scoring for Lyon at Troyes in the 45th minute.

He then set up the decisive second goal for substitute Christophe Delmotte on the stroke of full time.

Champions Nantes stay rooted to the bottom of the table as well as for Monaco, who were beaten 2-0 away at Lorient Saturday, and Marseille who went down by 1-0 at Bastia.

Nantes were beaten 1-0 away at Guingamp with the only goal coming from Stephane Carnot on 24 minutes. To make matters worse for the champions, they had defender Sylvain Armand sent off in the 73rd minute.

Monaco, also without a win this season, were 2-0 losers at Lorient with the home team's goals coming from Loic Druon after 16 minutes and Jean Claude Darcheville eleven minutes later.

Marseille, who sacked coach Jose Anigo last week, went down 1-0 at Bastia with the only goal coming from Patrick Beneforti after 33 minutes with a gliding shot over goalkeeper Vedran Runje.

Paris St Germain moved up to fourth spot with a 3-0 win at home over Rennes, but they had to play a game of patience before the goals came.

Guy Roux's young Auxerre side made it eleven points from five games when Yann Lachuer's second half header cancelled out Bordeaux's first-half strike from a Pedro Pauleta free-kick as the two teams ended 1-1. Sedan grabbed their first win of the season beating Metz 2-0 with goals from a Toni Brogno penalty and Henry Camara.

Montpellier and Sochaux drew 0-0.

Lens 1 Lille 1, Bordeaux 1 Auxerre 1 Bastia 1 Marseille 0, Guingamp 1 Nantes 0, Sedan 2 Metz 0, Lorient 2 Monaco 0, Montpellier 0 Sochaux 0, Paris St Germain 3 Rennes 0,Troyes 0 Lyon 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Lens	5	4	1	0	8	2	13
2. Lyon	5	4	0	1	9	3	12
3. Auxerre	5	3	2	0	10	3	11
4. Paris SG	5	2	3	0	7	3	9
5. Lille	5	2	3	0	6	3	9
6. Sochaux	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
7. Troyes	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
8. Lorient	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
9. Bastia	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
10. Guingamp	5	2	1	2	3	7	7
11. Montpellier	5	1	3	1	5	3	6
12. Bordeaux	5	1	3	1	3	2	6
13. Rennes	5	2	0	3	7	12	6
14. Sedan	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
15. Metz	5	1	0	4	2	8	3
16. Marseille	5	0	2	3	1	5	2
17. Monaco	5	0	2	3	2	8	2
18. Nantes	5	0	1	4	2	7	1

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

CELTIC THUMP HIBS

CELTIC moved four points clear at the top of the Scottish Premier League with a convincing 4-1 win over Hibernian at Easter Road on Saturday evening.

Two goals in a minute from Lubomir Moravcik and Chris Sutton put Celtic in firm control and Sutton grabbed his second in the 20th minute before star striker Henrik Larsson got in on the act with the fourth on the half hour.

Elsewhere, Rangers recorded their first home win of the Scottish Premier League season with a 2-0 victory over Dundee on Sunday in a match marred by a double sending-off.

The win takes Rangers up to second with 11 points from five matches.

And Ricksen wrapped up the points for Rangers in the second half, latching on to former Argentine international Claudio Caniggia's pass before tucking his shot past Jamie Langfield Kilmarnock won their first away game of the season with a 2-0 victory over Dundee United at Tanadice.

Celtic started brightly as they tried to get back to winning ways after their Champions League defeat to Ajax in midweek and Larsson was within inches of giving them the lead after 14 minutes.

The Bhoys did break the deadlock just three minutes later and what a goal is was.

With Hibs still trying to come to terms with Moravcik's amazing opener, Celtic doubled their lead just 44 seconds later when Sutton latched onto a bad backpass from Ulrik Laursen and held off the challenge of Franck Sauzee to coolly slot past Colgan.

Five minutes later, Moravcik's lofted forward pass put Sutton in again, and the Englishman drilled a low shot past Colgan into the bottom corner.

Larsson, who was causing all sorts of problems for the home defence got on the scoresheet with a powerful header from Alan Thompson's corner just after the half hour to complete a superb 45 minutes from Martin O'Neill's men.

Hibs got a goal back with a powerful header from Fenwick past substitute goalkeeper Dmitri Kharine five minutes from time.

Dundee Utd 0 Kilmarnock 2, Rangers 2 Dundee 0 Dunfermline 0 Hearts 1, Hibernian 1 Celtic 4, Motherwell 0 Livingston 0, St Johnstone 1 Aberdeen 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	5	4	1	0	10	1	13
2. Rangers	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
3. Hearts	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
4. Kilmarnock	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
5. Dundee Utd	5	2	2	1	6	6	8
6. Dundee	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
7. Dunfermline	5	2	0	3	10	10	6
8. Livingston	5	1	3	1	2	2	6
9. Hibernian	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
10. Aberdeen	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
11. Motherwell	5	0	3	2	6	11	3
12. St Johnstone	5	0	1	4	2	9	1

GERMAN CUP

BUNDESLIGA GIANTS FALL TO LESSER FOES

Energie Cottbus and Hansa Rostock both from the Bundesliga both crashed out of the German Cup, along with Borrusia Dortmund to lower league opposition in the first round on Saturday afternoon.

Cottbus fell to a surprise 1-0 defeat to third division side KFC Uerdingen with Giancarlo Fiore grabbing the only goal after 63 minutes to give Uerdingen a famous win.

Hansa were beaten 2-1 by second division Osnabruck.

Liverpool's Champions League opponents Borussia Dortmund also crashed at the first round stage after losing 1-0 to fourth division side Wolsburg.

Midfielder Ingo Vandreike was the hero for Wolsburg grabbing the only goal of the game after 64 minutes to shock in-form Dortmund and give the amateurs a famous win 1860 Munich booked their place in the next round with a ten-goal thumping of Wurzburger.

Austrian International Markus Weissenberger scored four goals, while striker Martin Max netted twice in the rout.

Hertha Berlin scraped into the second round, but only after a late strike from Alex Alves, saw off determined Babelsberg.

The Bundesliga side had to come from a goal down to progress when they fell behind after just 12 minutes when Enrico Rover scored.

WORLD LEAGUES

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Gillingham 3 Barnsley 0, Grimsby 2 Preston 2, Manchester City 5 Crewe 2, Millwall 0 Burnley 2, Nottingham Forest 4 Crystal Palace 2, Sheffield Wednesday 1 West Brom 1, Stockport 0 Portsmouth 1, Walsall 1 Birmingham 2, Wimbledon 0 Norwich 1, Wolverhampton 1 Watford 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Burnley	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Gillingham	3	2	1	0	8	0	7
Grimsby	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Wolverhampton	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Manchester City	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Birmingham	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Crystal Palace	3	2	0	1	9	7	6
Norwich	3	2	0	1	3	4	6
Nottm Forest	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Walsall	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Portsmouth	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Sheff Wed	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Wimbledon	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Coventry City	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Sheff Utd	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Millwall	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Watford	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Barnsley	3	1	0	2	2	8	3
Preston	3	0	2	1	3	8	2
Rotherham	3	0	1	2	5	7	1
West Brom	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
Crewe	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Stockport	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

JAPAN

Urawa Red Diamonds 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1, FC Tokyo 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 2, Kashima Antlers 3 Gamba Osaka 1, Yokohama Marinos 3 Consadole Sapporo 2, Jubilo Iwata 2 Vissel Kobe 0, Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 Verdy Tokyo 2, Cerezo Osaka 1 JEF United Ichihara 2, Avispa Fukuoka 2 Kashiwa Reysol 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Kashima Antlers	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
2. Yokohama F Marinos	3	3	0	0	5	2	7
3. Sanfrecce Hiroshima	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
4. N. Grampus Eight	3	2	0	1	7	6	6
5. JEF United Ichihara	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
6. Vissel Kobe	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
7. FC Tokyo	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
8. Kashiwa Reysol	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
9. Jubilo Iwata	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
10. Avispa Fukuoka	3	1	0	2	6	6	3
11. Tokyo Verdy	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
12. Gamba Osaka	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
13. Urawa Red Dia	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
14. Shimizu S-Pulse	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
15. Consadole Sapporo	3	0	0	3	5	10	0
16. Cerezo Osaka	3	0	0	3	3	12	0

CROATIA

Zagreb 3 Osijek 1, Marsonia 1 Hajduk 2, TSK 4 Slaven Belupo 1, Zadar 2 Hrvatski Dragovoljac 0, Pomorac 1 Dinamo Zagreb 2, Varteks 2 Rijeka 0, Sibenik 1 Cakovec 0,Cibalia 1 Karabogdan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Varteks	5	4	1	0	13	3	13
2. Zagreb	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
3. Dinamo Zagreb	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
4. Zadar	5	2	3	0	8	3	9
5. Pomorac	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
6. Cibalia	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
7. Cakovec	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
8. Hajduk Split	4	2	0	2	7	8	6
9. Rijeka	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
10. Osijek	4	2	0	2	4	7	6
11. TSK	5	1	1	3	10	11	4
12. Marsonia	5	1	1	3	6	7	4
13. Slaven Belupo	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
14. Dragovoljac	5	1	1	3	4	10	4
15. Kamen Ingrad	5	0	3	2	5	8	3
16. Sibenik	5	1	0	4	2	8	3

Louis Saha (left) of Fulham and Youl Mawene of Derby in action during the FA Barclaycard Premiership match between Fulham and Derby County at Craven Cottage, London.